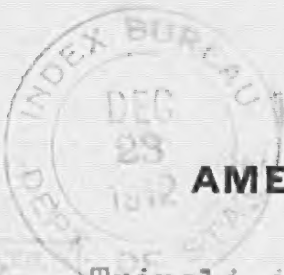


No. 106.



AMERICAN CONSULATE,

Tripoli-in-Barbary, December 3, 1912.

SUBJECT: Arrival of the personal representative
of the Sultan of Turkey.

62

DEC 8 1912

FILED

8652.00

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

FILED
DEC 31 1912

I have the honor to report the arrival in this city of Chemsî Eddin Pascia, on the 1st instant. He comes as the personal representative of the Sultan of Turkey, as provided for under the Royal Decree of the King of Italy, dated October 17, 1912, in Art. 2, following the Treaty of Peace between Italy and the Ottoman Empire.

Yesterday morning at 10:00, said representative made his official visit on Governor-General Ragni and this afternoon it was returned by the Governor-General in person.

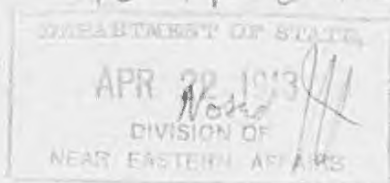
I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

John A. Mearns

American Consul.

114
No. 113



AMERICAN CONSULATE,

Tripoli-in-Barbary, N. Africa, April 5, 1913.

SUBJECT: Advance of the Italian Army to Jeffren.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

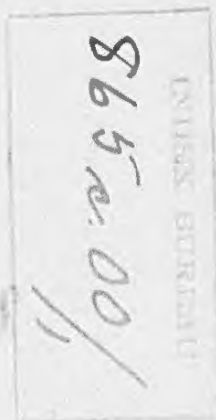
SIR:

765-67/417
Referring to my No. 110 of January 25, 1913, wherein I briefly stated the progress of the Italian Government in pacifying the Arab chiefs, with the exception of one Barrone who had set up a seat of government at Jeffren in the mountain district, about 110 kilometres to the southwest of this city, I herewith report on the latest developments of the political situation, growing out of the resistance of this Arab to Italian domination in his district.

I am creditably informed that every endeavor was made to effect a peaceable settlement, the Italian Government even being willing to arrange for the payment of about 2,000,000 francs rather than to resort to force of arms but Barrone insisted on the payment of 4,000,000

francs

820.



FILE
G. E.

FILED
APR 26 1913

francs. In fact it appears that Barrone constantly augmented his demands, believing that the Italians would not resort to arms and he was quite right in sensing the attitude of the Italian Government, for it has been the common gossip in all quarters here that affairs would be arranged without the necessity of shedding any more blood. From conversations with the political advisers of the Government as well as with the Military I realized that there was a difference on the most efficient method of settling with Barrone. The Governor, Lieutenant General Ragni, has been restrained several times from making a general advance, when every arrangement had been made.

During the last two months the route along the sea coast from Zanzur to Zauia, towards the Tunis frontier, has been insecure. Groups of Arabs have frequently fired on passing motor cars that have kept up a postal service between those points. The outposts to the southwest of Garian had also been attacked by small bands of Arabs, all evidently at the instigation of Barrone, who had been chosen by all the smaller chiefs as their leader inasmuch as he was a man of considerable intelligence, had been a member of the Turkish Parliament and had the reputation among his followers of being a most fanatical Mohammedan. On the night of the 28th of February an attack was made on the Italian forces at Agilat, a point directly north of Jeffren, between Zavia and Zuara. Some 2,000 Arabs were engaged, so that it could no longer be claimed that only bands of robbers were making plundering excursions. The Arabs were unsuccessful, causing a small loss and losing quite a number of men; they very soon retreated upon the arrival of reinforcements for the garrison at Agilat. The Italian army at Garian, 15,000 strong, was ready to advance

advance and the opportunity seemed most appropriate to administer an effective lesson to Barrone. Orders were given by General Ragni to General Lequio in command to proceed on or about the 3rd of March, only to be countermanded by the authorities at Rome, much to the mortification and disgust of General Ragni. Negotiations with Barrone were again commenced but with little success as he interpreted the failure of the Italian Army to attack his forces as a sign of weakness and consequently his demands became more impossible. He also sent some small bands to attack the Italian outposts near Garian. The demand of the Military to act could no longer be resisted and General Ragni was allowed to carry out his military plans.

On the 23rd of March the main body of Italian troops marched along the mountain route toward Jeffren and met the Arab forces at Assaba, while a column on the northern side of the mountains operated against the Arabs to prevent an attack on the Italian right. The Italian cavalry quite distinguished itself in this move although at a loss of over 50 horses. The main column under General Lequio completely routed the Arabs, who retreated in confusion towards Jeffren. About 800 Arabs were killed or wounded, while the Italians had 1 officer and 23 soldiers killed; and 2 officers and 25 soldiers seriously wounded; and 5 officers and 60 soldiers lightly wounded, all among the forces operating under General Lequio. To the north of the mountains, the column under Colonel Fabbri had 4 soldiers dead and 27 wounded.

The rest of the way to Jeffren was hardly contested and on the 27th the Italian army entered the city and raised
the

the Italian flag. All of the chiefs from the immediate vicinity ~~are~~ submitting and it is reported that Barrone has escaped to Tunis. It would appear that the territory to the west as far as the Tunisian frontier will soon come under the active domination of the Italian army as the backbone of the Arab resistance has been crushed in the easy defeat of the vaunted and proclaimed undefeatable Barrone. It is interesting to note that this district of Jeffren is the same that gave the Turks so much trouble for 25 years after their occupation in 1835 and that the leading chief under Barrone is the grandson of the Arab chief who was able to defy the Turkish army for such a long time.

Jeffren is on the route to Ghadames, through which the Sudan caravans pass and consequently the present victory is of great importance towards the reestablishment of the traffic between Tripoli and Nigeria, which has been cut off since the war began to the advantage of Tunis, as all of the caravans have passed from Ghadames to Gerba on the Tunisian coast.

The Italians have also occupied the district of Orfella, 160 kilometres to the southeast of Tripoli on the direct route to Fezzan. Over 100 chiefs from this district, Fezzan and Syrte are now in the city with the Italian residents and conferences are being held daily with the Governor with the object of securing the submission of all the chiefs to the south of the points already occupied in Tripolitania.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

John E. Wood
American Consul.

CONSULAR BUREAU
MAY 23 1913
RECEIVED

DIVISION OF
FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
MAY 22 1913

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7

No. 119.

INDEX BUREAU
MAY 21 1913
DEPT. OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULATE,

Tripoli-in-Barbary, N. Africa, May 5, 1913.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 22 1913
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Italian successes in the occupation
of Libia.

INDEX BUREAU
86500/2

12 MAY 26 1913

FILE
G. E. S.

FILED
MAY 27 1913

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

Referring to my No. 114 of the 5th ultimo regarding the occupation of Jeffren by Italian troops on the 27th of March last, I would report that General Lequio, after establishing a base at this point, continued his advance on the 5th of April to Zintan, on the 6th to Fes-sato, both of which towns are on the southern slope of the Atlas range. As the road on this side of the mountains seemed impassable for the camions that were used by the Army, it was decided to descend the Uadi which led to the plain north. On the 9th Socksciuk was reached, on the 10th the village of Giosc, on the 11th, Tizi and on the 12th of April the Italian flag was hoisted over the town of Nalut, which is about 325 kilometres from Tripoli on the caravan route to Ghadames and only a short distance from

from the Tunisian frontier. There was no resistance on the part of the Arabs; on the other hand, many fled from their homes even going into French territory in Tunis but they are gradually returning and submitting to Italian rule. The first message of the occupation of Nalut was brought to Tripoli by a carrier-pigeon.

Captain Pavoni, at the head of a picked body of Arab soldiers, arrived at Ghadames on the 27th of April. Before his arrival he was met by a large number of the Chiefs who tendered their submission and accompanied him to the centre of the city, where the Italian flag was hoisted. It is interesting to note that the journey to Ghadames was made in a camion. The distance from Tripoli to Ghadames is about 600 kilometres.

During the last two weeks the Italian troops have been engaged in a sweeping movement covering all the territory between the mountains and the sea, bounded on the west by the Tunisian frontier and the east by a line running from Zuara and the mountains. The entire country was found to be perfectly tranquil and the Italian soldiers are returning to Tripoli leaving the Eritrean ascaris and the indigenous soldiers to police the district.

The Tripolitan campaign can be said to be finished. It only remains for a company to proceed to Murzuk and Ghat to hoist the Italian flag, as there will be no opposition; in fact the Arabs in the interior are anxious to have the Italian Government send its officials, so they can make their submission.

CIRENAICA. The success of General Lequio in Tripolitania would seem to have aroused the Italian Government to a decisive movement in Cirenaica. The delay of
the

the Italian Army in advancing has appeared quite incomprehensible to military students of the situation in Cirenaica. They claim, and evidently with good reason, that the political influence has dominated this campaign.

On the 20th of April a column under General Tassoni marched from Tolmetta, a coast town between Benghazi and Derna, and took the important position of Merg, which is the key to the caravan routes in the mountain district between Derna and Benghazi. There was no resistance to the landing at Tolmetta and but little fighting along the line of march. General D'Alessandro has been having several skirmishes with the Arabs during his march from Benghazi and the latest reports state that the two columns have joined their forces. It looks now as if the Arab resistance would crumble as it did at Jeffren under the famous Barrone. It certainly will if the Italians push home the advantages they have won.

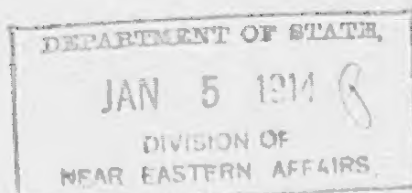
A copy of this despatch is being mailed to the Embassy at Rome for its information.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

John Z. Wood
American Consul.

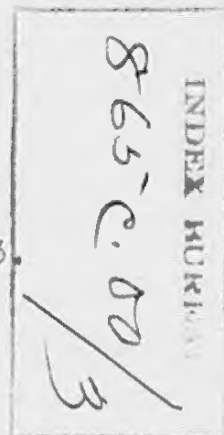
No. 135.



AMERICAN CONSULATE,

Tripoli, Libia, N. Africa, December 15, 1913.

RECORDED
JAN 5 1914
FILE



SUBJECT: Visit of the Duke of the Abruzzi.

JAN 7 1914

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

The presence of a member of the Royal House in the new possessions of Italy is of special significance politically as the Duke of the Abruzzi is the first one to have visited Tripoli.

It had been arranged to have the second division of the Italian navy under command of the Duke of the Abruzzi as Vice-Admiral, visit both Benghazi and Tripoli on its voyage back to Italy from Rhodes and Alexandria. This plan was frustrated on account of the rough seas off the African coast, compelling the fleet to proceed to a safe harborage at Augusta on the southern coast of Sicily.

Great preparations had been made to receive the Royal visitor and the members of the Italian colony had gone to a considerable expense so that the Government

felt

felt that there would be much criticism in case he did not come. It was, therefore, decided that he should come on one of the battleships under his command, the Regina Elena, which arrived off the harbour on the afternoon of the 12th instant. No special salutes were fired as the Duke visited Tripoli in the capacity of a Vice-Admiral. During the evening there were fire-works and a general illumination of the city. The principal government buildings were especially effective in their electric illumination. There was also a band concert near the Municipal Building.

The landing at the wharf in front of the Castle was made at about 9 a.m. on the 13th, where the Governor, his Staff, the Chief of the Political-Military Office, the Secretary General of Civil and Political Affairs and a few other officials were waiting to receive him.

A reception was tendered the Duke at 10.00 a.m., at which the Consular Corps were invited together with all the Chiefs in Tripolitania, a few representatives of the Jewish community and practically all of the important families of the Italian colony. During the first part of the reception held in the reception room of the municipal building, an address in Arabic was presented by the Mayor, Hasuna Pasha, descendant of the Arab family that ruled here for so many years preceeding the Turkish domination in 1835. The address was read by an Arab, former interpreter of the Italian Consulate General, for it is to be noted that the Mayor can neither read nor write any language, although a man of character, force and intelligence. He is a fine looking man of about 70 and makes a splendid appearance. The reply of the Duke was given very hurriedly in a low voice. He then turned
to

to the Governor, who presented all the members of the Consular Corps, commencing with the representative of the Sultan, Chemshehir Pasha, who outranks any of the Consuls. I was the only member of the Corps that had ever met the Duke of the Abruzzi and when I was presented to him and recalled our meeting in Venice on the occasion of the visit there of ex-President Roosevelt, he was particularly pleased and our conversation that followed was most informal and pleasant. We spoke in English for several minutes. It was a great satisfaction to be able to break away from the very formal manner used with all the other Consuls, giving the impression that a duty had to be done unflinchingly at every cost although most perceptibly not to the liking of the Duke. I found him much older looking, cheeks sunken and a slight stoop, very different from his strong and alert appearance of three and a half ^{years} ago. I mention this because of the frequent comments I have heard among all classes of people in regard to the impression received from seeing him.

A general reception was held in the pavillion in front of the municipal building, lasting about one-half hour, at which there was music by an orchestra and singing of the Royal Hymn by the Arab boys who have been picked from the streets by Captain Fassulo of the Bersaglieri Regiment and formed into a very commendable school unit that is being followed in other Arab centres by the Military. It is the first educational effort on the part of the Italians and has been attended with great success, so much so that all of the Arab families of moderate means are applying for permission to have their young boys received into this school.

A short trip was made in the oasis especially at the Fenni, where the Italian troops were cut down on the 23rd of October

October, 1911, on account of the treachery of the Arabs inside of the Italian lines. Then a banquet was given by the Governor at his residence at which only the principal military and civil officials were present. During the dinner there was a continuous demonstration on the part of some marabouts with a following of about 200 Arabs and a large number of curiosity seekers. The native songs and dances were indulged in especially to the delight of the blacks who seem to be the leaders in festivities of this character. The Arabs are silent and indifferent, difficult to be aroused to any enthusiasm in which the foreigner is involved.

There was always applause when the Duke made his appearance in the motor car but there was no decided enthusiasm. There was no effort on the part of the "managers" to create any frantic applause. One of the secretaries told me that they did not wish to make too much of this visit as a more important member of the Royal Family, presumably the King, would later visit Tripoli and they wanted the reception then to assume a different character.

There was a Tea and Dance at the Ristorante Italia at which the best elements of the Colony and all other foreign residents were invited by the Committee which gave this function. Most notable was the presence of all the Arab Chiefs and Notables. It was observed that the Chief of the Political and Military Affairs took every opportunity to have the Arabs brought into contact with the Duke and with success. I have spoken with several of these Arabs and they have invariably given me the impression that they were pleased with the Duke. I have noted that the officers who are the least demonstrative among the Arabs carry the most

weight. They like the man of action with a strong hand. They are, however, impressed with pomp and officialdom so long as they are kept out of the charmed circle.

Soon after 4:30 p.m., the Duke left the Ristorante Italia and immediately went to the Castle landing, where his launch was waiting to take him on board the Regina Elena which sailed at once for Sicily.

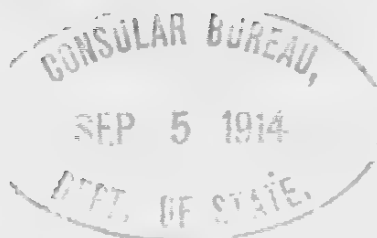
The visit was so short that it is doubtful whether any lasting impression will be made among the new subjects of Italy, such as to bind them to the House of Savoy. The quiet, dignified manner of the Duke was most fitting for a Vice-Admiral and a member of the Royal House. A great many Italians have been rather disappointed in not having seen a man with more of the Royal halo about him and they had hoped for more enthusiasm. Still on the whole there is a note of genuine satisfaction in this visit heard on all sides and the opinion can be expressed without hesitation that it has accomplished the purpose for which it was made.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

John A. ...
American Consul.

No. 20.



AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, July 29, 1914.

SUBJECT: Six months of pacification in Libya.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to report that the close of the first six months of 1914, marked further progress in the Italian penetration and pacification of Libya, but principally in the Mezzan, where, towards the end of December last, a column under Colonel Miani had arrived as far South as Prac, and a decisive engagement later at Maharuga made possible further penetration without bloodshed. There Mohammed ben Abdallah, who had instigated rebellion in the name of the Grand Senusso, was found entrenched on the heights with some 1,500 men. The green flag of the Prophet indicated the religious fervor that would add to the stubbornness of resistance and the fight was severe, lasting more than five hours before the enemy had been driven from their position and scattered in all directions. The losses were heavy, Mohammed ben Abdallah and 45 other notables being among the slain and the sacred flag was captured by the third company of Eritreans. These as well as the Libian ascari or native soldiers fought valiantly as did their Italian associates, and casualties were 1 officer and 100 ascari killed, 100 ascari wounded. The death

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death of Mohammed ben Abdallah, who was the principal leader of the district known as Sciati, demoralized his followers and later at Maharuga the chiefs of all tribes in that region are reported to have made complete submission and to have assured the Italian commander that the death of Mohammed ben Abdallah marked the end of all disturbances there. In token of good faith 3,000 camels, among other things were furnished to assist the column on its march to other parts of the country. This important engagement left open the way to Murzuk, the Fezzani capitol, and local chiefs believed no trouble would occur on the way.

Colonel Miani next moved his troops to the oasis of Sebha and remained there while negotiations were being conducted for the peaceful submission of Murzuk, distant but a few days march. Satisfactory terms, financial and otherwise, having been arranged, the Italians left Sebha on February 27, arriving at the capitol four days later. They were met outside the city by chiefs, notables and numbers of inhabitants who voiced their submission; at the gate local troops rendered honors to the column, chiefs and people offered the traditional bread and mutton, while amid music and salutes the Italian flag was run up and Murzuk had accepted the rule of Rome. It was an important step forward and has had a salutary influence on the country farther South. Ghat, to the West of Murzuk, near the confines of Fezzan, was to be the next objective and it is believed that diplomacy and a wise use of gold will make the entrance in that uncertain place free from fighting. No news of battles or even skirmishes have reached the public here and I am credibly informed that the column has met

with satisfactory though slow success and that news of the submission of the town is expected daily.

In Tripolitania there has been no unrest or fighting except along the border of Cirenaica and this may more properly be classed with the campaign in that province. By Royal Decree of January 24, 1914, taking effect February 18, Tripoli and its suburbs, Zanzur, Suk el Gimma, Ergheat (Fonduc ben Gaschir), Alauna (Sidi Saiah), Taigura, Zavia, Azizia, Gharian, Tarhuna, Msurata, Homs, Sliten and Usellata were all placed under civil administration indicating that the Government was satisfied with the complete pacification and quiet of this district. Additional evidence of this is found in another Decree that became operative on July 1, by which all troops resident in Tripolitania, exclusive of those in Fezzan, ceased to be considered on a war footing.

The history of Cirenaica for the same period runs less smooth. The natives there, under the incitement of the Grand Senusso and, it is alleged, sometimes led by officers of Turkish nationality, have stubbornly resisted Italian penetration; fighting has occurred almost daily, fighting that has run the gamut from mere skirmishes to sharp battles when probably 2,000 rebels would be in action. Authentic news has been difficult to obtain but it is certain that a victorious campaign has been carried on and reports from Italian sources would seem to indicate that progress has been made.

Fighting has been general throughout the entire coast region from the Tripolitanian boundary on the Gulf of Cyte, where the Maradah tribe holds out, to the port of Tobruk.

In the beginning of February the Government inaugurated

a more energetic campaign and there has since been plenty of action which opened early in that month when a small party of troops fell in with some 500 Arabs near Savia Argut, putting them to flight and capturing prisoners and arms. A few days later General Cavaciocchi, with 3 battalions of Eritreans, 1 of Alpini and a platoon of cavalry, surprised an important body of the enemy in the same neighborhood and dispersed them after a severe struggle in which not less than 100 were killed, several taken prisoners and 2 cannon captured. The town was eventually occupied and the Italian flag hoisted. On the 25th a native battery and a battalion of Eritreans when near Sidi Hajus, on the way from Benghazi to Merg, were attacked by more than 300 rebels among whom were many "regolarizzati", Turks, formerly soldiers of that country, who have remained to assist the Senussi in their opposition to the present owners of the country. The attack was repulsed after a sharp encounter, the aggressors having 39 killed and many wounded. The Italians lost Iascaro dead and 4 wounded. At Argut, along the same route on the same day, 200 rebels, with 2 cannon, assaulted the position of the 7th battalion of Eritreans but were also repulsed and dispersed, the Italian casualties being 3 ascari dead and 3 wounded while more than 100 of the attacking force were slain, their wounded being carried away.

Meanwhile operations were undertaken to the South of Benghazi under the personal direction of Lieutenant-General Amelio, Governor-General of the Province. Having heard that some 3,000 of the enemy with artillery, were encamped on the heights of Marsseleidana in the not distant Ailet dei Dorsa, he despatched two strong columns on a quick night march with orders to dislodge the enemy. A stout resist-

ance was encountered but a heavy rifle and artillery fire together with a disconcerting flanking movement followed by a bayonet charge completely demoralized the enemy who fled leaving 300 dead and 500 wounded on the field. When the Italians occupied the heights several hundred Mausers and cases of ammunition were found. The attacking force reports only 2 ascari killed and 14 wounded. It was rumored that following this battle nearly 100 notables submitted to Italian rule and it was hoped the lesson would have a salutary effect. But evidently its lesson did not carry far for shortly after the column under Colonel Latini, operating in Western Cirenaica, was made the object of a night surprise by nearly 2,000 rebels in the oasis of Zuetina, who were beaten off and dispersed after several hours sharp fighting in which they lost 263 men, the Italian casualties being 2 officers killed and 9 wounded, 1 soldier and 42 ascari dead and 7 soldiers and 93 ascari wounded. After some rest the advance was continued towards Gedabia and on March 15 further resistance was offered but Colonel Latini attacking strenuously, the enemy fled leaving their dead and wounded behind them.

On a March to Slonta and Tecruz, General Cantore on the 14th, after strong resistance on the part of the rebels, entered El Harruba with a final bayonet charge in which the Italians lost 14 dead-3 ascari and 11 soldiers.

Towards the end of February there was fighting along the border between Cirenaica and Tripolitania. Colonel Reveri who had left Cyrene on the 16th, moving East, after a march of 100 kilometers and when near Zauia di Zufilia, an important water station at the extreme Eastern confine of Tripolitania,

Tripolitania, found rebels of the Mogarba tribe in good numbers with whom he had a serious encounter and had 2 officers killed and 4 wounded, 1 soldier dead and 3 wounded, 12 Libians dead and 42 wounded. It was reported in Italian circles that as a consequence of this battle a large section of the tribe submitted, but native rumor had it that the native troops mutinied and turned against the Italians.

In the meanwhile General Cantore with 3 companies of Alpini, 3 of Eritreans and Libians, a platoon of cavalry, 1 of Italian infantry and 2 batteries operating in the zone of Nerg, found in the vicinity of Marana on the high downs, 1,500 of the enemy entrenched with artillery behind what are described as vast natural banks. A lively combat took place and after the guns of the enemy had been silenced, bayonets were fixed, a charge made and the enemy put to flight. 100 prisoners with quantities of arms and ammunition were captured and 90 dead were left on the field. The Italians had several wounded. Following this action some chiefs of the Dorsa tribe are reported to have submitted.

This column was again in action on April 13 near Gedabia the old Senussi headquarters. All three arms were engaged by some 2,000 rebels in a well fortified position, who, after a stubborn resistance in the face of a general attack and bayonet charge, scattered. Considerable ammunition was captured and it was claimed that the Grand Senusso was with the rebels. The Italians had 2 soldiers killed, 13 wounded, 4 ascari dead and 2 wounded. The enemy's loss was 134 killed and many wounded.

A caravan from Elonta with military supplies and reinforcements for Marana, was attacked on the night of the

23rd by 400 Arabs; they were hard pressed and fought until morning when reinforcements came up and drove the rebels off. They had 140 killed while the Italian losses were 13 white and 3 Eritrean soldiers killed and 29 white and 6 Eritreans wounded. About 60 of the enemy's dead, it was asserted were "regularizzati" or Turks.

The Commander -in-chief having determined to send an expedition against Zauia Naian, one of the principal points of rebel concentration, placed General Cavaciocchi in command and on the morning of April 26, two columns in charge of Colonels Gonzaya and Martinelli moved to the attack. About 3 in the afternoon the General ordered an assault on a position occupied by 600 rebels with two field-pieces. After the artillery had silenced these a sharp assault ending in a bayonet charge by the Libians put the enemy to flight and Zauia Naian was occupied and all stores burnt. The enemy left 150 dead and some wounded on the field: the Italians had 1 officer killed and two wounded, 2 Libians dead and 3 white and 4 Libian soldiers wounded.

On April 28, the redoubt of Marsa Lugia near Zuffilia in Tripolitania, was made the object of a violent attack; a force of Libian ascari commanded by Italian officers provided the defense. About noon the sentinels saw rebels advancing from the interior in considerable numbers. The alarm was quickly given and the Italians soon at their posts initiated a strong rifle fire. Against this the enemy continued to advance cautiously and succeeded in coming to within 100 meters of the redoubt. The attack was maintained for three hours when, evidently convinced of the futility of the attempt, the enemy retired after gathering up their

wounded

wounded, leaving 19 dead on the field. The Italians had 3 Libians killed and 6 wounded.

There was a lull in hostilities for a few weeks and it was hoped that some favorable news of settlement as the result of diplomatic negotiations might come through. But such was not to be and instead news reached this port that on the night of the 14th of May the Italian mail ship "Solferino" had gone ashore between Bardia and Ras Alem el Milhr, near Tobruk and had promptly been fired upon by rebels from the land demonstrating how easily they could and would work harm even near to Italian garrisons. Following closely on the heels of this came the report that on the 15th a light column, under Major Billia, composed principally of Libian ascari, had surprised a body of rebels to the South-east of Marana, dispersed them, burnt their camp and killed 3 of their men. The next day, a few miles further on, another encampment was located, probably the same Fedouins, and a longer and more violent engagement ensued, the rebels dispersing as usual, leaving behind 26 dead and numerous wounded as well as stores which were burnt. The Italians report no losses.

Again, on the night of the 26rd a mixed column marching towards Tocra, was attacked by a strong force, that was easily dispersed with 10 killed and several wounded. The Italians had 5 slightly wounded.

At the end of May an attack was made on some troops of the 43rd infantry who were escorting a caravan to Zue-tina. They were surprised with a discharge of shots from a considerable distance, to which an energetic reply was made followed by a counter-attack. The company was hard pressed but managed to hold its own until the arrival of reinforcements

ments

ments, when the enemy fled precipitously leaving 8 dead. Italian casualties were 1 officer, 3 soldiers and 3 ascari wounded. On June 11, a night attack was made near Merg by 200 rebels, on a caravan coming from Tolmetta. They were repulsed leaving 50 dead, and many arms and horses were captured. The Italians lost 2 soldiers dead and 5 wounded. The Italian flag has flown over Merg since April 1913 which is the key to the caravan routes between Derna and Benghazi. On the morning of the 29th, General Cantore, who was moving towards the Southwest, had an unexpected encounter with a force composed of more than 1,500 "regolarizzati" on foot and more than 800 cavalry, in the vicinity of Sumi Libar. The fight lasted for more than an hour and General Cantore, by a successful flanking movement discouraged the aggressors who took to flight. The Italian losses were 4 dead and 4 wounded. Their cavalry continued in pursuit as far as Markefter where was a Senussi encampment and another encounter took place the enemy again flying. Many arms and 2,000 sheep were captured. Rumor has it that General Cantore finally arrived at Gedabia about the end of June, burning encampments found on the way and receiving the submission of several tribes. The Grand Senusso is also reported in flight and it is even credited that his asylum is to be disclosed by a former adherent to the commander at Gedabia.

These do not exhaust the list of encounters. There were several skirmishes, attacks, etc, of less importance each month, 21 in all, giving a loss to the rebels of 220 dead, and to the Italians 3 whites and 3 ascari dead and 7 whites and 11 ascari wounded.

These

These Italian accounts all claim victory for their arms. The net result of the fighting seems not to have taken their forces beyond the coastal zone and no expedition seems yet to have succeeded or attempted to get between the enemy and the Egyptian border across which the Italians assert arms and ammunition and money reach the Grand Senusso. Arabs when questioned on this subject will tell you they think it is so, for where else could supplies come from as the coast is in the hands of and watched by the Italians. The Grand Senusso, being the leader of an important Mohammedan sect, probably the strongest and most widely scattered in this country, raises the standard of a holy war and under it fight not only Senussi from Benghazi, but from Egypt, Fezzan, Algeria, The Sudan, the Sahara. Arabs assert that the struggle will be protracted. Silver and diplomacy which proved such good weapons in the Fezzan have made little headway in Cirenaica and the Arabs fear it will take much longer to end the resistance. One is impressed with the number of times in which battles have had little effect beyond dispersing or putting the enemy to flight, they melting away against too great resistance only to collect for another attack. One is also struck with the large percentage of instances in which the Senussi have been the aggressors showing that they are as intent upon attacking as the Italians.

It is difficult to learn the number of troops now in the Italian field. I have heard it placed anywhere from 50,000 to 70,000, largely ascari. The part the Eritreans and Libians have taken in the battles stands out prominently and, judging from the killed and wounded, they seem in many

instances to have borne the brunt of the fighting. Several thousand native Libians have been recruited at Tripoli and other points in the province and sent to the front, many of them boys. It is conceded that they make excellent soldiers and their officers speak highly of them. There has been but the one rumor of disaffection among them and that is strenuously denied in Italian military circles.

Among Arabs it is asserted that the Italians have not always been as successful as their reports indicate and one is told of two occasions when regiments have been almost annihilated. After one of the engagements near Syrte it was said that a force of Arabs recruited here had been nearly all killed; it must be so, they maintain, for the women were weeping for the men who would never return. The Arabs also talk of two caravans, one with 170 camels the other with 140, taken with all supplies from the Italian troops convoying them.

It is difficult to get satisfactory details of the campaign but from the almost daily fighting, wherein a large percentage of the attacks were made by the Arabs, it is easy to understand that the situation is serious and that considerable time must elapse before the end of the struggle is reached. The Senussi were practically an autonomous tribe under the Turks and held out against that power during its entire occupation of the country. Upon this they base their ability to hold out against the present overlords.

Cirenaica is regarded as the most fertile section of all Libya and a protracted period of unrest limiting agricultural pursuits and preventing safe business intercourse with the interior will prove a great economic loss to the

colony

colony and to Italy.

A copy of this despatch has been forwarded to the
American Embassy at Rome.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Frederick Conant

American Consul.

No. 25.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 5, 1914.

SUBJECT: Effect of European war crisis at Tripoli, Libya.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit herewith, copy of a report to the Embassy at Rome with reference to the effect here of the war crisis in Europe. This in supplement to that sent with despatch No. 23 of 2nd instant.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. ...
American Consul.

enclosure :
As indicated.

8652.005/-
SEP 30 1914

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 10, 1914.

Subject: Effect of the European war on Tripoli, Libya.

Honorable Peter A. Jay,
American Charge d'Affaires,
Rome, Italy.

Sir:

Supplementing the Consulate's communication of 2nd instant, I have the honor to inform you that the news of the entrance of other European powers into the Austro-Hungarian-Servian conflict, has been received here with great concern. There is no open excitement beyond crowds eager to purchase Stefani telegrams, issued in the form of bulletins at five centesimi each, and newspapers arriving from Italy. The local journal, La Nuova Italia, has been closed down for several weeks for repairs.

There is increased anxiety as to what the natives will do in case Italy becomes involved; many fear the ascori (Arab troops) may not remain loyal. That the Government shares this belief is evidenced by the fact that two battallions of Italian regulars ready to embark for Italy yesterday, have been held for emergencies. Arabs say the ascori will remain faithful as he receives Italian money and has eaten Italian bread; old foreign residents place no great faith in this and assert that so much silver and so little lead were used in the march to Pezzan, that the Arab has not become sufficiently impressed with Italy's

strength. The future alone holds the answer, but it is of great interest in the local situation.

There was a rumor that French war ships were near Tripoli on the 1st. The Italian torpedo-boats left harbor that evening but returned the morning of the 4th, and, it is said, brought news that the cruisers were of their flag.

The regular steamer of the French Compagnie de Navigation Mixte, due yesterday from Tunis, did not arrive and I understand the service has been suspended indefinitely.

Commodities grow rapidly dearer. I have paid 50% more for fuel to-day than four days ago. Coffee, flour, gasoline, sugar all as high. The suspension of exports in all European quarters and the probable interruption of steamer service here, causes apprehension for the future and increasing numbers are provisioning. I have laid in supplies with which I could go on for two months; my chief concern is ready money. I tried to sell an emergency draft on the Secretary of State yesterday but the bank would quote no rate or advance no cash. They will only do so on telegraphic transfer through their New York agents and last night I called the Department requesting that money be remitted in this way. I have taken this precaution in the event of cable being cut and no communication possible later. I mention these personal details in order that my position may be judged in the event of isolation.

Italy's declaration of neutrality, made public here yesterday through the Stefani bulletin, is regarded locally as a very correct statement at the time of issue, but news of events, that may tend to force

fleet, is anxiously waited.

The few German reservists residing here, leave tomorrow morning, under orders to report to the first army post they can reach. Among them is Eugen Emil Kaufmann, recently appointed Vice and Deputy Consul and clerk at this office.

The forts at Tripoli, I am told, are not prepared to resist an attempt by a strong power. The Lemniah fort on the East side of the harbor, destroyed by the Italian bombardment, has not been restored. The old Spanish fort on the West side mounts two guns, the Castillo near the center is not armed and what is known as the North-west fort, commanding the sea from that side, has 2 or 3 guns.

A copy of this despatch has been forwarded to the
[redacted]

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,


American Consul.

File No. 820.

No.27.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 9, 1914.

SUBJECT: Report on effect of the European war on Tripoli, Libya.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit herewith, copy of a further report to the Embassy at Rome with reference to the effect of the European war at this place.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. D. L. L. L.
American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

8652. 10/6

Aug 30 1914

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 9, 1914.

Subject: Effect of the European war on Tripoli, Libya.

Honorable Peter A. Jay,
American Charge d'Affaires,
Rome, Italy.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Italy's neutral attitude in the present struggle has brought great relief here in all circles and the question of the Arab attitude loses importance for the present.

The upward course of prices has been checked to some extent by the attitude of the authorities who have let it be known that they would deal rigorously with any attempt at artificial augmentation, and the Stefani bulletin yesterday contained a notice to the effect that the Government had already prepared a decree to establish and control the prices of food stuffs. This has had a good effect and taken in conjunction with Italy's neutrality, has greatly improved the local outlook.

There is no change in the attitude of the banks and money still remains a serious question.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

William C. Brown
American Consul.

File No. 820.

No. 28.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 14, 1914.

SUBJECT: Report on effect of the European war at Tripoli, Libya.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit herewith, copy of a further report to the Embassy at Rome with reference to the effect of the European war at Tripoli.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. P. ...
American Consul.

Enclo :
As indicated.

File No. 520.

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 14, 1914.

SUBJECT: Effect of European war at Tripoli, Libya.

TO: DIRECTOR OF

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I have the honor to inform you that the Government has now fixed prices at which necessities may be sold for use, present; this, and the explanation that Italy's prohibition of exports does not apply to its colonies, has added to the assurance engendered by the declaration of neutrality, and the excitement over provisions has abated.

A few weeks ago the German Consul departed on leave, giving official notice that during his absence the consulate would be in charge of his secretary. On the 5th instant, Dr. Otto Lamm, "Lieutenant", arrived unexpectedly, and assumed the duties of the post. He has not been in a consular position before, but came direct from Berlin where he is attached to the Foreign Office. Three other Germans arrived at the same time and their presence, like all other members of the nationality, have left for military duty, gives rise to much comment. Their movements, I am told, are being closely observed by secret police. There are but four resident Germans here, all females, and as all business has ceased and no ships of that flag arrive, the interest demanding protection is slight.

On

On the 11th, instant, a Consul took charge of the Austrian consulate which, for several months prior to the war, has been presided over by the Vice Consul, a local Austrian subject.

The banking situation remains unchanged, and the British Government has made a deposit in a local bank for the use of its Consul-General in case of emergency.

A copy of this despatch has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

Frederick Dorey
American Consul.

No. 29,

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 23, 1914.

SUBJECT: Events at Tripoli, Libya.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

1/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a report to the Embassy at Rome with reference to recent events at this place.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very obedient servant,

W. H. ...
... ..

... ..
... ..

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AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 23, 1914.

SUBJECT: Events at Tripoli, Libya.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

In my despatch of 14th instant, I had the honor to note the arrival of the new "Gerant" of the German Consulate and his three fellow countrymen. These men are now regarded as secret agents of their Government and it is believed they have come to these parts to endeavor to influence Arab sentiment against the Italians. Their actions are closely observed and their movements restricted as much as possible. Two planned a trip inland, towards the south, by camion but an order having gone forth that no camions were to be hired to Germans, they were unable to proceed in that manner and are all still in the city.

It would seem that members of the local Austrian colony have also been tampering with the native and two merchants of that nationality, with large Arab business connections, have been warned that they will be summarily dealt with if the Government's attention is directed to further activities on their part.

From a usually correct source I hear that the local representative of the Sultan and his agents have been busy in similar work.

As the result of somebody's machinations two Arab

chiefs

chiefs are in prison; another is said, in Arab circles, to have fled to Tunis, and three more to have been summoned to the Castle for interviews with the officials. Of the two imprisoned, one is Bey Ali Shel Abi, chief of the important Fasel district, which comprises all of the Tripoli oasis from Sciera Seiat to Taigara and a large tract of desert to the south; the other is Mushra Bey, chief of the smaller Fiscia district, of importance because of its proximity to Tripolitania, and its dense population.

Of those said to have been summoned, one is from Zanzur, the first oasis to the west of Tripoli, one from Zavia, seat of the rich oasis a short distance beyond Zanzur, and the third from Azizia, the present northern terminus of the railway. He credited with flight is the chief of the tribes in the Jebel Tar uni, and, according to native accounts, an important personage, who, having learned that his neighbor of Azizia had fallen under suspicion, became frightened and made precipitately for the frontier.

The natives seem not to be aware of, or at least make no allusion to, the suspicion attaching to certain foreigners; their talk is that Mushra Bey was suspected of having been in communication with the French Government and that, doubtless, all the others were suspected of complicity.

It has been definitely learned that there are 7,000 Italian troops in Tripolitania and 48,000 in Cirenaica. With the exception of a small body of artillery and all officers, there are no Italians in the Senusi expedition, the column consisting of Egyptian and Libian ascar.

Economic conditions are unchanged. A copy of this despatch has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. Rodrick Dorey

American Consul.

3 17 97

No. 30.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 30, 1914.

SUBJECT: Events at Tripoli, Libya.

RECEIVED
SEP 1 1914

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a report to the Embassy at Rome with reference to recent events at this place.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. Rodenbeck Dorey
American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 30, 1914.

SUBJECT: Events at Tripoli, Libya.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I have the honor to inform the Embassy that the three men who arrived here recently with the "Gerant" of the German Consulate, have been deported by the Italian authorities, and many more chiefs and other Arabs have been lodged in prison for complicity in their movement to stir up dissension among the natives against the Government. The chief Ali Shel Abi has been sent to Italy.

The vigilance of the local authorities seems to have unveiled a deep laid plot, and it is hoped the punishment of those implicated will have a deterring effect upon other natives, who now generally understand the meaning of the arrests.

The representative of the Sultan is still under strong suspicion, and his house and his employees are watched night and day.

His Excellency Governor-General Garioni went to Italy on the 27th instant, declaredly on leave, but presumably for conference with the Minister of the Colonies concerning local conditions.

The news of the arrival, on the 25th instant, of the
column

column under Major Giannini, at Ghat in the extreme southwest of the Pezzan, has been received with great satisfaction by local Italians, as the news had been expected for several weeks.

A copy of this despatch has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. M. Dorey
American Consul.

No. 31.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,

Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, September 30, 1914.

NOV 4 1914

SUBJECT: Political events at Tripoli, Libya.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a letter from the American Consul at Tripoli, Libya, dated September 30, 1914, to this place.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]
American Consul.

[Faint text]

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, September 30, 1914.

SUBJECT: Political events at Tripoli, Libya.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,

ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I have the honor to report further with reference to political occurrences in this colony.

Some influence continues to work upon the Arabs and to cause unrest among their leaders.

Several days ago I was credibly informed, that Turkish activity had taken the form of attempting to make the Turks believe that all Arabs who had served in the Sultan's army during Turkish occupation, were subject to his call for service now, and that the Turks should send all such men to Constantinople for re-enlistment.

Rey Abdallah of Woms, chieftain of a very large district, and his son are said to be prisoners in the father's house, closely guarded by police and allowed intercourse with no one. The Rey is over seventy, and was formerly in the pay of the Turkish Government.

The Calmacan of Azizia has been sent for to come to Tripoli, whether under arrest or merely for conference, I have not been able to ascertain. He, too, is an old man, and came under suspicion with other chiefs, as mentioned

in

in my despatch of August 26, last. It now transpires, from native sources, that he was ill at that time, and his son was sent as a sort of hostage and has never been permitted to return to Azizia.

The evident uncertainty among the Arab chiefs in Tripolitania was not heard of before the European war, all having sworn allegiance and entered into the pay of the Italian Government. Whether present conditions result from German-Turkish endeavor to stir the Mussulman world, or whether due to local causes and the efforts of the Grand Senusso to gain cooperation in his struggle in Cirenaica, is not clear; but the German attempt is history, we are told of Turkish negotiations, and it is understood that the Italian authorities keep constant watch on those chiefs who have any communication with Turkish emissaries.

A copy of this despatch has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Frederic C. Jones
American Consul.

No.34.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, November 2, 1914.

SUBJECT: Political events in Tripoli, Libya.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a letter
sent to the Embassy at Rome with reference to local
political events.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

your obedient servant,

A. Rodin

American Consul.

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DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, November 2, 1914.

SUBJECT: Political events at Tripoli, Libya.

TO EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,

ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I have the honor to report that during the past month rumors have reached this Consulate repeatedly, from Arab quarters, of unrest among the natives south of the Tarnana mountains; there have been stories of private caravans destroyed, their owners killed and goods carried off; of Government supply trains attacked with loss to the convoys, and even of mutinies among native Libyan troops. This was practically confirmed officially a few days ago when, in company with Mr. W. F. Wallis, of the Carnegie Institution, Washington, I called on His Excellency the Governor-General to put forward that gentleman's request for permission to journey across Tripolitania to Murzuk and Ghat, in Fezzan, for the purpose of making scientific observations. His Excellency very much regretted that he could not allow Mr. Wallis to proceed and gave as his reason the unquiet conditions due to the depredations of what he termed marauding bands. It was then asked if it would be possible to go to Ghadames, towards the southwest, near the Tunisian border and much nearer to Tripoli; the reply was again negative and that under present conditions the Government

ernment would not care to take the risk of permitting travel in the Colony. The Governor expressed his willingness to telegraph the Minister of the Colonies at Rome for special instructions in this instance, but Mr. Wallis requested that this be not done as his orders were to act on the decisions of local authorities.

Mr. Wallis pointed out that two of his fellow workers had a few months ago been permitted by the French authorities to cross Algeria to Timbuctu; to this His Excellency responded that a few months ago, i.e., before the outbreak of the European war, permission would have been readily given to proceed south through Italian territory. It was gathered that the changed condition is attributed to the efforts of certain powers to stir the Mohammedans to participation in a general religious uprising.

His Excellency frankly stated that the present political situation in Europe made it impossible for Italy to maintain a sufficient number of Italian troops here. It has also been reported, by Arabs, that a few weeks ago the Government called on the Sheiks to furnish a lot of natives for military service against the troublesome bands in the south; the sheiks declared their readiness to send men to enlist but would not now guarantee their action. Arrests among disaffected chiefs still occur, and within the last ten days four or five more, from nearby districts, have been lodged in prison.

It now transpires that when the house of Hay Ali Shel Abi was searched considerable sums of money were found as well as communications from both German and Turkish emissaries.

The Consulate is credibly informed that the authorities

thorities are in receipt of an official telegram from Rome announcing the outbreak of war between Turkey and Russia. This will be allowed to gain publicity gradually as it is feared that a too sudden announcement of Turkey's entrance into the conflict might have a too unsettling effect on local Mussulmen.

Governor-General Garioni, who went to Italy on leave at the end of August, has not yet returned, and, it is stated, will not do so. In the meanwhile acting Governor-General Cigliani discharges the duties of the office.

A copy of this despatch has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. Rodwick Dorey
American Consul.

No. 38.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, November 10, 1914.

SUBJECT: Political events at Tripoli, Libya.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a despatch to the Embassy at Rome with further reference to local political events.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. C. B.
American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

FILE
DEC 16 1914

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12

DEC 16 1914

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, November 10, 1914.

SUBJECT: Political events at Tripoli, Libya.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

Supplementing my despatch of the 2nd instant concerning local political events, I have the honor to add that, from a usually well informed source, the Consulate learns that native disturbances have not been confined to the district south of the mountains. Arabs tell of Government supply trains destroyed, one of 400 camels travelling from Syrte to Socna, set upon, all camels killed or captured, and convoy routed with great loss, and of another of 300 camels that shared a similar fate to the south of Gharian. News has also been received of a body of ascari, with Italian officers, who, out for the purpose of clearing the way between Scideref and Gheriat to insure the passage of future caravans, were attacked by a band of armed Bedouins numbering several hundreds, when a sharp encounter occurred with results unfavorable to the Italian arms. The local newspaper prints nothing of these events and news filters through slowly from various sources-officials to natives-the latter, by the way, seeming to have knowledge of all these happenings despite the policy of non-

journalistic

journalistic publicity.

These troublesome bands are said to be increasing in number and in size; one is credited with at least a thousand rifles. A small force of Eritreans is said to have been sent forward from this place, but I have heard that in local military circles there is indignation that a goodly force of Italians is not spared from the vast armies mobilized in Italy, to insure lines of communication to Murzuk and Ghat and the safety of the small garrisons at those points. Arabs say armed forces are gathering to menace both these places, but this lacks any confirmation and, while realizing the probability of such an occurrence, I am inclined, having regard for the great distance from Tripoli, to look upon this latter as mere rumor or as effort to impress the natives of this oasis with the activity of their brothers in the interior.

Apropos of a recent report in the Corriere d'Italia that Turkey, protesting its great friendship for Italy, had spoken of sending a mission to the Grand Senusso to influence him pacifically towards the latter's occupation of Cirenaica, it is interesting to note that one close to local heads has said that Turkey has already proposed to the Grand Senusso that, in the event of war between that country and England, he should abandon his campaign against Italy and invade Egypt.

A copy of this report has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

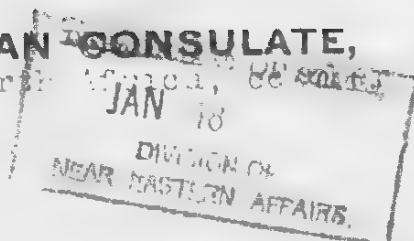
Your obedient servant,

J. Kendrick Brown
American Consul.

File No. 820.

No. 47.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, 1914.



SUBJECT: Native unrest in Tripoli and district.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

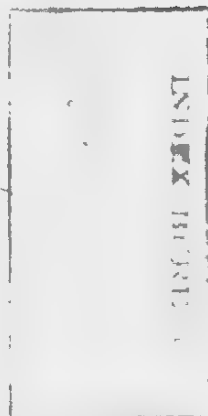
I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of
report of the Consul at Tripoli with reference to the
unrest among the natives in this district.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. Rodrick Ford
American Consul.

Enclosed:
1. Tripoli, 1914.



AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, December 4, 1914.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,

ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

Since last having the honor to address you concerning local political events, conditions have not improved, indeed native unrest in the interior seems to have spread and to be still on the increase.

General rumors of happenings in several districts reach me constantly, and not infrequently more specific reports come to hand. That the situation is serious at certain points is evidenced by the fact that according to "La Nuova Italia", the much censored local journal, a state of siege has been proclaimed in the region of Halut, where a caravan with military supplies was attacked by "robbers" on the 28th instant, the convoy sustaining a loss of one officer and five soldiers killed and twelve soldiers wounded. Arabs say that the post of Halut itself was attacked and that the assaulters got into the town where there was fighting at close quarters.

Serious trouble has also been reported at Jefren, and on the route to Ghadamah, beyond Halut, another caravan bound to the former place was surprised when resting at

HOME

some wells and several killed.

Natives insist that beyond Gharian the Arabs have gathered in large numbers, and are controlled by Sheik Hammood Sheriff, a marabout, or holy man who would never receive money from the Turkish authorities and has refused similar advances from the Italians. A man of this calling who detaches himself from politics and thinks only of the religious aspect of things is in a position to cause serious trouble if he sees fit.

The Italian Government seems now prepared to recognize the need of military activity in Tripolitania and the Fezzan, and, it is reported, is bringing 6,000 fresh troops to cope with the situation. The first 800, men of the 75th infantry, arrived on the 3rd instant and the remainder are expected to follow promptly. This will mean about 13,000 Italian troops to safeguard the whole of the two divisions named. There are also several Eritrean and Somali regiments that have done excellent work in Cirenaica against the Senussi, and there are local Arabs enlisted in the Italian service. Just how valuable these latter will be in the event of this rising assuming the character of a Jihad or holy war, it is difficult to assert. But, it has been said that money is being used to encourage them to take the benefit of their Italian training to their own people, and it is rumored that at one point, unidentified, 500, ~~1000~~ have deserted taking all their arms with them. Also at the fort of Ghara di Sebha, in the region of Irag, which was attacked on November 28, treachery seems to have been rampant. The published account of this incident states
that

that Colonel Miani sends word from the Fezzan that at the beginning of some agitation in Sciati he went there with a column to punish the rebels and compel them to take refuge in Zellaïf, a region to the south of Birghen. This accomplished, the column started back towards Prac, spending the night at the fort of Ghara di Sebha. When attacked the sentinels and outposts, who were Fezzani recruits, did not give the alarm and even joined the rebels, who consequently occupied the summit of the Ghara easily. The garrison of whites and Eritreans, although taken by surprise, defended themselves valorously and retired in good order to join the principal force. The Italian losses are placed at 4 officers, 18 white soldiers and 1 Eritrean.

Reinforcements are now moving to the interior. Ten days ago about 1,000 Eritreans and Somalis were sent to the region beyond Azizia on the route to Murzuk; four regiments of Italians have gone forward in the last few days presumably to reinforce Halut, Jefren, and other posts.

German machinations are continuing. A few days ago, it is asserted, two Fezzanis were arrested after leaving the German Consulate, and when searched were found to be carrying incriminating letters addressed to Arabs in Tunis. It is also reported that a German disguised as a Tripolitan Jew has been arrested at Zuara, and the natives tell of another of their agents from Morocco and working in the interior, who speaks Arabic fluently, wears baracan, fez and heelless slipper, and calls himself Hag Mohammed.

It is believed that Italy has to face a situation here of no light importance and the hope has been expressed

ed that,fully admitting this,troops will be sent in sufficient numbers to cope successfully and promptly with the unfriendly movement. There are garrisons as far south as Murzukand that, 500 and 600 miles-caravan miles-respectively,and all the country between Azizia (less than 50 miles from Tripoli) and those points is more or less disturbed. If these garrisons have to be succored,it means weeks of marching and long lines of communication maintained through an unfriendly region devoid of all supplies,except water and that only at certain points. Add to this the probable need for relief at other widely scattered points and the wisdom of being prepared with a goodly force becomes apparent.

The news from Cirenaica brings no hope of improvement there. A member of a regiment recently arrived from that Colony says there was fighting and skirmishing almost every day,and one official report relates how,when a regiment was suddenly attacked a few weeks ago the rebels had artillery.

No news from the war in Turkey is published here at all.

I have the honor to be,Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. H. H. H. H.
American Consul.

No. 45.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa December 12, 1914.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a
despatch to the Embassy at Rome with further reference
to unrest among the natives in this district.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. Anderson

American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

File No. 620.

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, December 12, 1914.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

Supplementing the report of 4th instant with reference to native unrest in this Colony, I now have the honor to inform the Embassy that on December 6, the local representative of the Sultan of Turkey called at the office of the civil administration and there read to the principal ulema (interpreters of the Koran) and other Arab notables a telegram received from his Government at Constantinople, which declared "that the holy war does not in any way touch Italy, the friend of Turkey". He further charged all the ulema to spread the knowledge of the Sultan's word to surrounding Mussulmen.

It will be interesting to see what effect this will have upon local difficulties. Some believe good will come of it-others that it will make little difference. It is a fact that in the Fezzan the movement against Italian authority had commenced several weeks before the entrance of Turkey into European conflict, and the indications of disaffection in Tripolitania itself prior to that event and reported from time to time, had no connection with the

Ottoman

Ottoman Empire unless the efforts of her emissaries to foment trouble can be termed a connection. In addition there are indications, which I mention with all reserve, that the Italian Government is not popular with the natives. This has been reported from Arab sources on several occasions and, if true, was doubtless the germ that proved so responsive to German and Turkish incubation.

Moreover, the Arabs are said not to be greatly impressed with the strength of Italian domination or the courage of her soldiers. The fact that the original advance into the Fezzan, after Sebha, was accomplished with money rather than force, and the failure after three years to overcome the efforts of the Senussi in Cirenaica seems to have encouraged them in the belief that Italian rule could be dislodged from the Fezzan, at least.

Credible report has it that Italy will withdraw from that region for the present, calling in the garrisons at Ghat, Murzuk, and other outlying posts. Effort will be concentrated on suppressing the rebellion in the hill region and holding the country from there to the coast, which, after all, seems to be the only section presenting such economic possibilities as would justify expenditure of lives and money to retain. Communication is said to be completely interrupted between Sebha and Murzuk, and the drawing in of the garrisons from the latter point and from Ghat will probably not be accomplished without loss.

Fresh troops continue to arrive and are being sent south to reinforce the garrisons in the mountain districts, one body having been landed at Zuar, the nearest port to

Valut

Malut which has been reported in sore straits.

In the city of Tripoli things go on as usual, but the roads in the oasis are patrolled at night by armed squads who, it is said, stop and question closely any native encountered.

A copy of this report has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Frederick S. Dorn
American Consul.

No. 46.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, December 16, 1914.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a further despatch to the Embassy at Rome, with reference to unrest among the natives in this district.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. Rodenbeck Davis

American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, December 16, 1914.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

In my last despatch to the Embassy I had the honor to refer to a telegram from Constantinople concerning the holy war and Italy.

After the incident then related the message was printed in Arabic, over the signature and by order of the representative of the Sultan, and posted on the walls of the mosques. The Consuls of Great Britain and France, seeing menace in this message to their holdings to the east and west of Libya, promptly lodged a vigorous joint protest with the Italian Governor-General against the facility thus afforded the Turkish Government for spreading such propaganda in Italian territory. The removal of the offending posters was requested, and it was intimated that their continuance on the walls would be regarded as unfriendly to their Governments. In twenty four hours the posters were all down and, needless to say, no more bulletins bearing only the authority of Turkey will be seen here.

No news of encounters between Italian troops and Arabs has come through recently. The most important fact

is the return to Tripolitania of Farrone, a conspicuous figure of the war of occupation, when he was chosen by all smaller chiefs to be their leader. He is reputed to be a man of much intelligence, was formerly a member of the Turkish Parliament, and has the reputation of being a very fanatical Mohammedan. He would not accept the Italian Government's offer of 2,000,000 francs to bring his followers peacefully under the rule, holding out for a much larger sum, and after subsequent hard fighting and the Italian victory at Jeffren on March 27, 1913, he escaped to Tunis where he has remained quietly until now. His return at this time injects an element into the present situation that suggests stubborn resistance to Italian operations. It is interesting to recall that some 15,000 Italian troops were engaged against Farrone in the battle that resulted in his defeat and flight.

It is reported that two sheiks have been hung by the Italians at Gharian and that others who are wanted have fled to the desert.

Of the troops recently arrived, 2,000 have been landed at Noms.

A copy of this despatch has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Wm. H. H. H. H.
American Consul.

No. 47.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 30 1915
AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libia, North Africa
JAN 7 1915

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a
despatch to the Embassy at Rome, with further reference
to the native unrest in this district.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

American Consul.

Enclosure:

As indicated.

7652.00
116

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111

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libia, North Africa, January 6, 1915.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I have the honor to report that, since my last communication on this subject, little news has come through from Fezzan and the hill areas where the rebels have been active. The most interesting item is the arrival at Soc-na of Colonel Niani and his column from Murzuk; official reports say without loss or incident, while Arabs tell of molestation, fighting and loss of men.

Native report also speaks of a battle at Jefren when 3 foreign officers and many ascari were killed and wounded, and of another between Jefren and Malut in which some hundreds of ascari were wiped out. No denial is forthcoming from Italian sources; on the other hand one hears that a column going from Jefren to the relief of Malut was set upon by a considerable force of Arabs, well placed in a deep valley, and that a lively combat followed in which the rebels had 17 killed and many wounded, and the Italians, 1 ascari killed and 14 wounded.

In the city of Tripoli a band of conspirators has been discovered. Their place of meeting was raided

just

just after Christmas, some 25 being arrested and placed in prison; the succeeding day 7 more were taken. These conspirators were natives of standing in the community, sheiks of streets being included in their numbers.

Another local incident was the arrest of a Mrs. Schwackerdt, wife of a German resident now at the front. The Schwackerdts own a farm some distance out in the oasis and the house has long been under suspicion as a place of meeting between German agents and the Arabs. On December 31, Mrs Schwackerdt was placed on trial, her husband being joined in the action, to answer the charge of having a notable collection of arms in their house contrary to the prohibition of January 6, 1915. Both husband and wife were adjudged guilty and sentenced to one years detention, the arms to be confiscated. An appeal has been lodged.

A copy of this despatch has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. Fredrick Donnell
American Consul.

CONSULAT BUREAU
MAR 2 1915
DEPT. OF STATE

No. 50.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libia, North Africa, January 29, 1915.

RECEIVED
FEB
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a despatch to the Embassy at Rome, with further reference to the native unrest in this district.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. Woodruff

American Consul.

Enclosure:

As indicated.

File No. 820.

8652.00/17

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libia, North Africa, January 29, 1916.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I now have the honor to report that Colonel Miani, who commanded the Italian forces at Murzuk, and of whose arrival at Socna the Embassy has previously been advised, reached here on the 16th instant, having travelled from Socna to Sirte with his column, and thence by gunboat to Tripoli. After remaining here a few days he departed for Italy.

A member of his entourage says the march through the disaffected region, although without untoward incident, was delayed and fatiguing. No camels could be obtained and the slower donkey had to be depended upon for transport. All ascari recruited in the Fezzan deserted and remained there.

It is also reported that with Colonel Miani's passage through Socna the garrison there was withdrawn, and natives report that Benghazim, the first important station beyond the Nica mountains, has also been abandoned. If this is so Italy has probably completed the program of withdrawal from Fezzan, for it is rumored that the small

force

force at that escaped and eventually made their way north. That this retirement was accomplished with so little loss of life, has caused great satisfaction and surprise locally, for it had been feared that the contrary would result. The Arab explanation is that as the Italians were leaving the Fezzan "beaten" the natives turned unseeing backs, but had they been coming in every one "would have had four eyes".

With garrisons and defenses materially strengthened at Tarnuna, Garian, Tifren and other points along the same general front, and with shortened and less difficult lines of communication, the Government would seem to be in a position to hold the country from the mountains to the sea should insurrection flare out in that area. Up to the present, with the exception of sporadic encounters in the section back of Sirte, and a clash at Bir Agilah, inland from Zuara, fighting has been confined to the hills and the region beyond. One is told that Fezzan is not relinquished permanently, but it is believed that Italy will make no attempt at reentry until after the war cloud has passed in Europe. Be that as it may the occurrence has not increased the prestige of the present overlords in the minds of the natives. It has even been said that Italy now realizes the mistake of having penetrated, so hurriedly and with such meager show of force, to distant points in the midst of tribes that Turkey had left in a state of quasi autonomy.

An Arab of Garian, who recently brought his family to Tripoli for safety, says that armed Bedouins are in

large

large numbers about two days march beyond that place, and the natives fear there will be fighting in the district; no news of any battle or skirmish has filtered through as yet.

Another plot has been discovered at Agilat, about 50 miles west of Tripoli, and a number of chiefs and notables have been arrested and brought here. It is understood that more evidences of German intrigue were then unearthed, as well as at the time of apprehending the conspirators in this city, mentioned in the Consulate's despatch of 6th instant.

It is interesting at this point, to note the departure a few days ago of Dr. Otto Mann, who arrived to take charge of the local German Consulate immediately following the outbreak of war. In official circles it is asserted that he has been recalled at the request of the Italian authorities; at any rate, he left suddenly and without taking leave of any of his colleagues or circulating the customary notice of relinquishing charge. It is understood that Dr. Tilger, the Consul who went on leave at the end of July, is on his way back to resume charge, and has been in Rome for several days.

In Cirenaica the Senussi would seem to be maintaining their war against the Italians as from the beginning. Many rumors reach Tripoli but little concrete news, though the local paper has reported attacks by rebels on the 16th and 17th of this month, in which the advantage was to the Italians.

A copy of this despatch has been sent to the De-

partment

partment of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. Rodrick Jones
American Consul.

No. 51.



AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libia, North Africa, January 30, 1915.



SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a despatch to the Embassy at Rome, with further reference to the native unrest in this district, and with special reference to occurrences in the neighborhood of Socna.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]
American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

File No. 820.

8652.00
1/15
NINE
MAR 1 1915

TRANSLATION.

(from "La Nuova Italia", Tripoli, of January 30, 1915.)

THE BATTLE OF HOY NEAR SOCHNA.

For some time the spreading of Senussi propaganda, to oppose us Italians, has been on the increase, originating from Cirenaica. As a consequence there grew up in the region of Sirte a dangerous group of fanatics who unfurled the green flag of the Prophet and conducted themselves in a decidedly hostile manner. All the disturbed and dissenting elements, as well as the robbers so numerous among the nomad and wild tribes of that desert zone, were drawn to them. This nucleus tried also to induce the fixed populations of the oases to rebel and a part of the inhabitants of Uaddan succumbed to the wiles of the Senussi.

To prevent the spread of such incidents it became necessary to take vigorous action and Lieutenant-Colonel Gianninazzi, commander of the region, decided to punish the people of Uaddan as an example to others. As an adequate force of infantry was not available at the moment, he bombarded the village on January 17, inflicting great loss of life and property. In spite of this the adverse propaganda continued to spread, and a Senussi force of 700 or 800 collected, armed with rifles and artillery, approaching each day nearer to Sochna, with the evident intention of next attacking that post.

The commander, having received reinforcements of Erit-

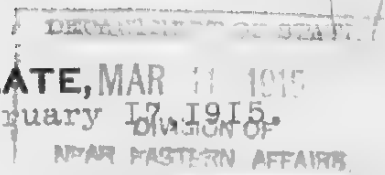
rean troops, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Billia, determined to forestall the rebels and attacked them violently at dawn on the 26th, near Hon, and, after a short and sanguinary combat, dispersed them, driving them a long way off.

The rebels, who, as usual, conducted themselves as cowards, did not stand up to the bayonet charge.

The rebels left more than 100 killed on the field; we had only 16 ascari wounded, in consequence of the surprise on the enemy and the superiority of action of the Christians and Riflemen.

No.57.

AMERICAN CONSULATE, MAR 11 1915
Tripoli, Libia, North Africa, February 17, 1915.



SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/-

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a despatch to the Embassy at Rome, with further reference to the native unrest in this district.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. Rodenbeck

American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

File No.820.

865e.00/19

APR 13 1915

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libia, North Africa, February 17, 1915.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I have the honor to report that disturbances in Tripolitania are on the increase. A state of siege has been proclaimed throughout the district of Sirte. The country around Misurata has also become disaffected, and at the village of Khesiem a combat is reported to have occurred towards the end of January in which, according to native accounts, some Italian officers and many soldiers were killed. The leader in that section is Sheik Bin Muscir formerly in Turkish employ but not continued in office by the Italians. On the contrary he was invited to Tripoli, arrested for some reason, and sent to prison in Italy. Having returned his resentment takes the form of enlisting adherents to the anti-Italian crusade, and he adds to his bravado by sending letters to the commanders inviting Italy to come and take him in the open.

It is again asserted, this time from native sources, that Socca has been abandoned by the Italians. When a similar rumor reached the Consulate through other channels it proved incorrect, but color is given to the present report

report by an article in "La Nuova Italia" which says that "the column commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Gianinazzi, after having beaten the rebels at Uaddan and Hon on January 12 and 20, moving from the oasis of Soona, has arrived at Bungeim (Bengenoim) in the Orfella in good condition and without incident". Another item, published only a few days ago, seems to place the occurrence outside the realm of doubt. Therein we are told that "a rather serious encounter took place near Bungeim on the 8th instant. Colonel Gianinazzi has telegraphed that early on that day the camels belonging to his column, going to pasture escorted by 300 armed men, when less than an hour away from Bungeim were suddenly attacked by a body of the enemy estimated at 1,000, with 90 cavalry and some "regularizzati". While the escort held the rebels in check, Colonel Gianinazzi sent reinforcements of Eritreans and Libians and a section of artillery under command of Colonel Pillia. The fight lasted with extreme violence until dark. Our losses were 3 officers killed and 1 wounded, and among troops 14 Eritreans killed and 35 wounded, and 13 Libians killed and 15 wounded". Later advices say that the column afterwards continued towards Beni Ulid where an auto-column under Colonel Rosso is waiting to meet it.

There is also authentic news of a battle, three or four days ago, at a short distance south of Sirte. The rebels had established a camp at Gaduria and Major Mansier was sent with a mixed force of Italians and Libians to deliver a surprise attack against it. This was accomplished, the rebels being dispersed and the camp about

150 tents burnt. Later, however, the enemy returned in greater strength and disposing their forces in groups along an extensive front waged a fight of several hours duration. Eventually they abandoned the field and Major Maussier's column fell back to Kasr bu Hadi on the way to Sirte, which was reached the following day. The Italians report enormous losses on the side of the enemy, their own casualties being 110 made up as follows: -20 white and 4 native soldiers killed, 4 officers, 64 whites and 18 natives wounded.

Trouble has also been reported from finds to the south of Gharian, and at the latter place many olive trees are said to have been cut down to guard against surprise attacks by the Arabs.

In the extreme west of this Province the rebels have also been active. A wireless received here on the 3rd instant brought news that a body of troops commanded by Captain Voglione and moving from Walut towards Ghadames, was in difficulties having been attacked at Hozezen, near the latter place, on January 31, by some 300 armed men. The message further stated that many had been killed including some wireless operators, that ammunition was running low, and that reinforcements were urgently needed. These the Government despatched at once. A later telegram announced that the fight of January 31, lasted thirteen hours, the rebels being finally driven off with loss only to attack again on the 4th instant to suffer a similar experience. It seems that this force was seeking to regain Ghadames which is in Tripolitania on one of the most important

portant caravan routes and so near the Tunisian border as to hold no ^{small} political importance. Advice received yesterday state that Captain Volpione had finally reached his objective. The former garrison was compelled to abandon Ghadames at the beginning of the present troubles taking refuge across the boundary in Tunis. Its members only arrived in Tripoli on the 4th instant after a very circuitous and tedious journey. The garrison from Ghat, also compelled to decamp, and whose whereabouts seem not to have been known for several weeks, has now been heard from and is reported safe.

It is learned from a credible source that when Colonel Viani and his followers left Fezzan and Sabha, they abandoned two batteries of big guns, many provisions, and all camions. The native troops remained behind.

And so the quiet zone seems always to shrink and the hydra of open rebellion to coil its length over ever widening areas until people begin to wonder if effective Italian Tripolitania is to be reduced to the mere coastal fringe that has been the reward of three years campaigning in Cirenaica. Further reinforcements are being sent from Italy, and two squadrons of cavalry and three battalions of Bersaglieri have arrived, half the latter being landed at Sirte. Troops already at Tripoli are being rushed to the hill posts and Gharian, it is rumored, will be made the headquarters of a division.

While no danger is anticipated here, precautions are being taken. Land defenses, abandoned after the peace with Turkey, have been restored, gates and towers in the

wall

wall erected by the Italians in the oasis along an arc about two miles distant from the city are all manned, and after sunset gates are closed and squads of armed soldiers patrol the roads in the area between the wall and the city.

The Consulate has heard from three usually reliable sources that, in addition to the "regolarizzati" (Turkish soldiers) in the battle of Tungein, some of the officers were German. There has been much rumor of the presence of commanders of that nationality in the rebel camp, but this is the first time the Consulate has received such positive statements on the point.

The "Gazzetta Ufficiale", Rome, of 11th instant states that the British Ambassador at Paris, in a telegram dated February 9, has received news from the British Foreign Office that "Sheik Sidi Ahmed, the Grand Senusso, during a conversation with a British officer, has expressed his displeasure at the unfounded rumors regarding his intentions and that had cast doubt upon his promise to act amicably towards Egypt and its Government. Meanwhile, Suliman el Baruni (Paronne), chief agitator in Tripolitania, and his accomplices, have been detected fomenting intrigue against Egypt and have been arrested by the Grand Senusso".

This news is of interest as indicating that the Grand Senusso continues to wage his war in Italian territory through the same motives that prompted him before the Jihad was proclaimed, and, according to recent Italian newspapers, the spread of his propaganda is on the increase. While Paruni, who returned to Tripolitania shortly after Turkey's entrance into the war, has doubtless been instru-

mental

mental in closing such threat, his sympathy and endeavor are for Turkey above everything, and his arrest would seem to indicate that the Grand Senussi has neither desire or intention to stir up trouble to the east that would widen his sphere of action, decentralize his forces, and so weaken his attack that to continue his campaign of active resistance against the Italians might be impossible.

It will be interesting to see just what effect this arrest, which the "Rassegna Ufficiale" characterizes as "most important news" for Italy, will have on the situation.

A copy of this report has been forwarded to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. R. D. Jones
American Consul.

No. 58.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libia, North Africa, March 13, 1915.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of
despatch to the Embassy at Rome, with further reference
to the native unrest in this district.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

File No. 20.

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DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libia, North Africa, March 13, 1915.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I have the honor to report that the period since the despatch of 17 ultimo has been marked by greater activity on the part of the Italian Government directed towards holding the stations along the line from Ghadames on the Tunisian border, running northeast through Giado-Tassato, Ifren, Garian, and Tarhuna and thence southeast and along the coast to the confines of Tripolitania.

This was foreshadowed in the advent of Governor Tassoni, and reinforcements of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, said to have been a condition precedent to his consenting to come here, have continued to arrive at Tripoli, Misurata, Eliten, and Noms. Their numbers have not been definitely ascertained but it has been gathered that probably 15,000 troops of all arms have been added to those already in Tripolitania when the trouble began, thus giving a possible total of 20,000 to 22,000 Italian soldiers and several battalions of ascari in this Province. Most of the latter are at the front and the white regiments formerly held in the vicinity of Tripoli have also been

moved

moved out to Ifron, Nalat, Fassato, and other hill towns.

The Consulate is informed that the Governor has issued an order that no point now held is to be abandoned under any circumstances, any officer disobeying to be held strictly accountable. Approval of this policy is found in the utterance of the Minister of the Colonies when, in a recent speech before the Chamber of Deputies, he asserted that the retirement from the Fezzan was wise and necessary but from the places to which they have now retired the forces must not go back one inch.

It is also understood that Governor Tassoni did not receive the native chiefs upon his arrival as had been the custom of his predecessors. Several expressed their desire to pay their respects, but His Excellency sent word that when he wanted to see them he would send for them. When he did permit their visits he expressed surprise that sheiks enjoying Italian bounty had not kept the people quiet and intimated that for the future friendly relations would be maintained with those who were faithful, but that others would be punished severely.

On February 25, Lieutenant-Colonel Gianinazzi, who formerly commanded at Soona, arrived in Benghazi bringing with him the telegraph, postal, and similar civil authorities from Soona, Bungia, and other places in the disaffected areas. More reinforcements have reached Captain Voglione at Ghadames and an official communication of the Italian High Command says the country there and in the Gebel Mafusa has been cleared of the enemy and have moved their base of operations near Derna and Sirt, but strong bodies of re-

bels have camped to the south of Garian and Misda, and that in the Misurata region other bands have attacked Italian caravans. A later communication adds that a column under Colonel Nigra visited Sinaun on February 28, and found the country quiet, while a second, under Lieutenant-Colonel Simoncelli, made several reconnaissances into the region around Misda without meeting any rebels. It is also given out that the Giannini column from Ghat has arrived safely at Ghadames.

On February 28th a gubernatorial decree proclaimed a state of siege in the regions of Misurata, Orfella, and Garian. This, and former proclamations with regard to Sirte and Nalut, recognizes a condition of siege along a large portion of the front to be held.

Of rebel activity little has been heard, even native reports yielding nothing beyond the fact that large bodies of armed Arabs were gathered at various points. Natives assert that this quietude is not due to fear of the important Italian reinforcements, and explain that it is probably accounted for by a desire on the part of the rebels to save the approaching harvest from destruction by military operations if possible.

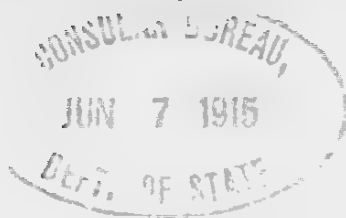
A copy of this report has been forwarded to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. D. D. D.
American Consul.

No. 61.



AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, April 30, 1915.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

FILE, C. E. S.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a despatch to the Embassy at Rome, with further reference to the native unrest in this district.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. Dorey
American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

File No. 620.

8656.00/21
INDEX BUREAU

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, April 30, 1915.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I have the honor to inform the Embassy that political conditions in this district continue unsettled, and since this Consulate's last report encounters between rebel and Italian forces have not been infrequent.

Colonel Antonio Miani, who commanded the expedition into the Fezzan last year, has been sent to Misrata where he is now in command of the eastern military zone.

The arrival of a column of colored troops under Lieutenant -Colonel Nigra at Ghadames on March 5, is officially announced. Two days before reaching there they were attacked near El Bab by some 300 Arabs who endeavored to impede their progress but without success. The Italian losses were 8 killed and 56 wounded.

The most serious engagement is reported from Wadi Marsid to the south-east of Misda, on April 6, when a body of Italian and native troops under Colonel Gianninazzi was attacked by a force of rebels estimated at 1,000. The battle lasted all night but the enemy was repulsed with grave loss. The Italian casualties were 1 officer

dead

dead and 11 wounded, including the Colonel, and 3 white soldiers and more than 100 Libyans wounded.

The above is the published account of the affair. From statements made by Europeans, wounded in the fray, it appears that among the Italian force were 1,500 Libyan troops. Of these fully two-thirds refused to fight against their own people, attacked their comrades in arms, and went over to the enemy taking guns and ammunition with them. A hot battle ensued. The Arabs were held off with serious loss to the Italians, and during the night, with a hollow square about their wounded, the latter maintained their ground until the arrival of assistance. The doctor, seriously wounded, fell into the hands of the Arabs, but was later sent to a certain point by camion from where he was able to communicate with friends. The camion is evidently one of those abandoned by the Italians when leaving Socna last Autumn.

The native version is that the Doctor and three other officers fell into the hands of the Sheik who sent them back but told them to advise the Italian Government to go away from Tripoli; that he and his people had not wanted the Italians who had come with force. An officer remarked that Italy had taken Tripoli from the Turks, but the Sheik asserted that the Turks had never conquered that interior country, that it was Arab country for the Arabs only and would never be quiet as long as Italy remained.

Shortly after this affair, on April 7, a mixed column under Colonel Rosso, operating in the Orfella region, was

set

set upon when to the east of Terri Mesellem. A battle developed along a front of 3 miles and the rebels were eventually compelled to fly abandoning their barley and losing camels and horses. The Italian losses were slight, 2 Libyans killed and 4 wounded being the toll.

This Consulate has heard from time to time of hordes of negroes, followers of the Senusso, who had flocked from the far interior to Fezzan. Recently this has been confirmed through a native who was one of a delegation sent to treat concerning raids that had been made and cattle carried away. Their leader, one Mahmud el Twat, is camped about seven days march south of Misurata. There he was found with his followers, men of Twat, a place of indefinite location in the Sahara, and men of the Tibu tribes whose habitat is along the twentieth meridian near the Egyptian border. There are said to be many thousands of these insurgents, but with the Arabs lack of sense of proportion it is not possible to even approximate what this means. They are said to possess nothing but their animals and their arms, often bow and arrow, and their clothing is of the scantest. By the Arabs they are called "shetans" or devils, and it is said that they can go unconscionable journeys with the minimum of food and when all else fails blood drawn from the nostril of a camel and cooked will satisfy their needs. The delegation, mentioned above, interviewed Mahmud el Twat in an endeavor to secure the return of their cattle and to find out why his followers carried away the goods of fellow Mussulmans. Little success attended their efforts. The cattle had

all

all been distributed and doubtless eaten, and no assurances could be exacted that these wild hordes would not continue to visit the camps of Mussulmans who dwell in unity with the infidel. Upon the return of the delegation to Misrata the Arabs petitioned the Italian officials to permit them to carry arms to guard themselves and their possessions against these raiders. This the authorities refused undertaking, however, to protect the friendly natives, and so the matter rests.

In the Consulate's despatch of January 6, last, reference was made to the appeal of the German subject Elisa Schwaekerdt from a judgment sentencing her to a years detention for having arms in her house contrary to law. The appeal was lost and Mrs. Schwaekerdt rearrested on the afternoon of the 20th instant and lodged in jail.

In Cirenaica Senussi resistance seems to lose none of its vigor. A party who has recently returned from Benghazi says that encounters are of almost daily occurrence in the Province, and that depredations are carried close to the city itself. Among the more important engagements was ^{one} at Fedbia, a few weeks ago, in which a column of all three arms set out to disperse a camp of 1,000 insurgents with 2 pieces of artillery. After a sharp struggle the enemy withdrew having nearly 100 killed. The Italian losses were 2 officers, 50 white soldiers and 4 ascari killed; 2 officers, 19 white soldiers and 25 ascari wounded.

Another battle took place about the same time near Wadi Gamera where the rebels had assembled 2,000 foot

and

and 500 horse. In this attack were noticed many "regimentals" in khaki, and the enemy maneuvered always with that regular formation that suggested the presence of more than native leaders. However, the official report concludes with the information that after a battle lasting several hours the enemy withdrew in the night taking their wounded but leaving 100 dead on the field. The Italian losses are reported as 1 officer, 3 white soldiers, and 2 asari killed; 2 officers, 4 white soldiers, and 60 asari wounded.

More recently, on April 21, Colonel Paolo operating in the region of Merg led a punitive expedition against a disaffected tribe at This, surprised them and burnt all their tents and captured many animals. On the return march the column was violently set upon by several enemy groups and lost 1 soldier killed and 10 wounded.

A recent newspaper article written from Benghazi says that lately the local representative of the Grand Senussi has shown a feverish activity in recruiting. In fact a sensible augmentation of forces is noticeable in all the centers of Senussi resistance that are parallel to our fortifications, from Lectafia to Asbat nella Iannaria. This shows that Mohammed el Becri, although at a distance, has not abandoned his post. Proa collum, where he actually is, he continues to communicate with his captains and, moreover, has held a council of chiefs which resulted in a decision to resist the Italians to the bitter end, and orders to this effect were sent to all commanders. A tendency is also noted on the part

of the rebels to approach always nearer to our military posts".

To turn again to events in Tripolitania. Word has just come in of further disturbances in the region between Garian and 'Isda. On the 28th a company of white troops, placed at Kormet Fagara to secure the road between those points, was attacked by a group of about 150 rebels while others occupied the surrounding heights. Two companies sent quickly to their assistance from Tescin under Colonel Bonelli, held off the enemy and extricated their comrades from an awkward situation. The Italians had 1 officer killed and 22 soldiers wounded and 2 killed.

Early on the morning of the 29th, Lieutenant-Colonel Castellano set out from 'cleidima with a column of white troops to attack strong groups of insurgents gathered about five miles south of that place, followed them some distance and eventually set fire to their camp at el Auldaud. On the return march the force was harassed by considerable numbers of the enemy, estimated at nearly 700 foot and 100 cavalry. The Italian casualties are given as 2 officers killed and 1 wounded in addition to 7 soldiers killed and 12 wounded. The Arabs are said to have left 70 dead on the field and to have carried off numerous wounded.

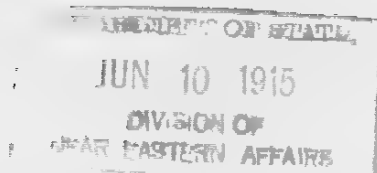
A copy of this report has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Frederick D. Denny
American Consul.

File No. 820.



No. 62.

1915
AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, May 6, 1915.

FILE

FILE Q E S

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a despatch to the Embassy at Rome, with further reference to the native unrest in this district.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Arthur B. ...

American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

FILE Q E S

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, May 5, 1915.

SUBJECT: Native unrest in Italian North Africa.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I have the honor to report another battle in Tripolitania between Italian and insurgent forces, which seems to have resulted in disaster for the former, and there seems little doubt it is the gravest blow that has been dealt the Italian arms since the cessation of hostilities between that country and Turkey. It has made a profound impression among Italians locally.

Rumors of the event were current here six days ago, and, gradually, particulars have come out. The press remained silent until to-day when, printing the official version, it stated, briefly, that Colonel Niani telegraphs from Sirte that, on April 29, with a column of all three arms and a numerous band of irregulars operating in the region Orfella Sirica, he attacked a rebel camp at Kasr Bu Hadi, to the south of Sirte. The irregulars, suddenly, went over to the enemy thus placing the other troops in a very difficult position. They were able to extricate themselves, however, but only after strenuous fighting and with considerable loss. The column returned to Sirte the same evening. The losses to the

the

the Italians are given at 16 officers dead and missing, 200 white soldiers dead and missing, and also some ascari. The mail steamer "Letimbro" was deflected from its regular voyage and sent direct to Syracuse, bearing 409 wounded, nearly 100 of whom were whites.

The Consulate learns from usually correct sources that the force amounted to 8,000 troops, of which 3,000 were Libyan irregulars. These latter deserted to a man taking rifles and ammunition with them, and in the confusion ensuing the Italians suffered enormously. Officers killed, wounded and missing number 45 and Colonel Miani himself is said to have been wounded in the chest. Colonel Villia is also reported seriously wounded and Major Maussier, dead. Among the booty captured by the insurgents are said to be several pieces of artillery and 4 camions.

The rebels are reported to have approached within striking distance of Marjan, the most important hill post, and yesterday and to-day there have been rumors of trouble there. This has not been confirmed.

There is some criticism as to Italy's reliance upon the native irregular bands enlisted at various points to reinforce the Italian and British troops. Old residents have maintained from the first that it was a dangerous policy, and, certainly, the treachery at Zebha and Talat, more recently at Misda and now at Kasr Fu hadi, should give the Italian authorities much food for thought on this very important point.

Natives assert that beyond the hills and in the Orfella and in the Sirte the Arabs and negroes are "like flies". What-

ever

ever this may mean the situation undoubtedly requires careful handling and is said to be causing the Governor considerable anxiety. Some say he will visit the centers of trouble.

A copy of this report has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Rodenbeck Dorsey
American Consul.

No. 63. [unclear]

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, May 20, 1915.

SUBJECT: Political conditions in Italian North Africa.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a despatch to the Embassy at Rome, concerning political conditions here, and having special reference to the declaration of a state of war, made necessary by the increasing native opposition to Italian domination.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

File 6.620.

8650.00/25

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, May 20, 1915.

SUBJECT: Political conditions in Italian North Africa.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I have the honor to report that following the declaration of a state of war in Tripolitania by His Majesty, the King of Italy, Governor Tassoni has issued a proclamation addressed to the inhabitants of the Province setting forth the Government's intention in the matter. A translation of this proclamation is enclosed, herewith.

I/- To make its undertakings effective considerable reinforcements are coming into the district. It is said in well informed quarters that sufficient Italians will arrive to bring their strength up to 30,000, which means about 20,000 new white troops. Infantry and artillery are included and many have landed here. The larger body, however, is being sent to Misurata and Sirte, points near the most seriously disaffected areas.

The gravity of the disaster reported in the Consulate's despatch of May 5, has not been lessened by later accounts, and, if report is to be credited, the wholesale treachery of the irregulars was precipitated by the action of Colonel Fiani himself. These bands, it may be pointed

out

out, have no standing as units of the Army and are not to be confused with the regular Libyan and Eritrean troops. They have no Italian officers, are controlled by native chiefs, are recruited in the country adjacent to regional headquarters, have no uniforms and are paid at the rate of lire 5.00 (\$0.965) a day. Those at Gar Fu Hadi were men of Misurata and Tarhuna, had been recruited only a very short time before being sent on active service, and, according to native accounts, were, like others, engaged and armed for defence against ~~aggressive~~ marauding Bedouins and not for offensive operations. It is reported in Italian circles that when these bands learned they were to be marched against their coreligionists they, through their chiefs, asked to be excused as they had not the heart to attack their own people. Colonel Miani, however, insisted upon their going and caused some of the unwilling to be punished for insubordination. Consequently when the expedition moved out there was much ill humor among the irregulars. When the supreme moment came they turned on their Italian employers with the results already reported.

More than 500 of these men have been brought to Tripoli and imprisoned at the Quarantine Station. Several chiefs have been either shot or hung at Misurata and Tarhuna. Feeling has run high at the latter place in consequence and reinforcements have been hurried forward from Azizia.

On May 12 a caravan convoyed by Italian troops was attacked between Misurata Port and Misurata City, and the
rebels

rebels repulsed with grave loss. Italian casualties were 3 officers wounded, 11 soldiers killed and 29 wounded. In this action the Arab chief Ramadan Scetuel was killed. He is described as one of the principal leaders of the band that deserted at Casr Bu Hadi. He was, also, one of the chiefs that came to Tripoli to arrange with the Government for the assembling of irregular bands in the region of Sirte.

There have been persistent reports of trouble at Iarian, but no definite news has come through, and small incidents seem to have occurred at the nearby points of Tappira and Suani Beni Aden.

Italians in Tripoli have not escaped the tension and excitement of the moment of undecided politics in the home country. Local opinion is strongly in favor of intervention in the European war, and a few evenings ago a demonstration, enthusiastic but orderly, openly gave expression to that sentiment.

A copy of this report has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. Rodrick Dorey

American Consul.

Enclosure:

As indicated.

File No. 30.

TRANSLATION.

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From La Nuova Italia, Tripoli-May 18, 1915.

PROCLAMATION
of His Excellency the Governor following the State of War.

INHABITANTS OF TRIPOLITANIA:

For nearly a year nomad populations of the Ghibla, of the Sirtica and of the Tezzan, accustomed to a life of rapine and brigandage, under the leadership of ambitious and greedy chiefs that only care for their own interests and for gratifying their wicked passions, have plotted against the tranquility of this land, impeding the development of civilized life and prosperity, damaging agriculture and commerce and carrying sorrow to homes.

Other traitor chiefs, after having had trust, large stipends, and honors from the Italian Government, have treacherously compelled people, tranquil until now, to unite with the rebels and highwaymen.

These facts have saddened the minds of the Italian people who, for the well being of your land, have continually given ample contributions of intelligence of science, blood and money, constructing roads, ports, railways, telegraphs, hospitals, and schools, and improving agriculture and commerce, always respecting your religion, your habits and customs, displaying towards you the benevolence due to younger brothers and preparing earnestly that moral and material regeneration of Tripolitania which the past regime, in its loose domination, had failed to accomplish, notwithstanding

withstanding that the shores of your country were laved by that master sea of civilization, the Mediterranean.

To our beneficent work, short but fruitful, many have opposed a resistance that we have once pardoned, but ^{that} would be weakness to pardon again.

The kindness and gentleness of those who govern can only find justification in like conduct from the governed. When these rebel with treason, with massacre and with rapine, nothing remains but to adopt the inexorable right of force, using it with justice, but also with firmness.

The gravity of what has happened and the headstrong work of some who excite the revolt in quiet populations, has constrained me, with sorrow, because it was my intention to dedicate myself to the more useful works of peace, to invoke the declaration of a state of War, placing the whole Colony under an exceptional regime that it is my firm purpose to carry out with the greatest rigor, as you may gather from my decree of to-day that follows:

THE GOVERNOR:-

Seen the telegram No.2394 of May 14, 1915 from the Minister of the Colonies by which a state of war in Tripolitania was proclaimed;

Held that conditions of public order in the Colony require the adoption of special provisions of an exceptional character, shaped to arrest the spread of rebellion among the natives;

Recognized, at the same time, the opportunity of better systematizing the functions of the political authorities;

Seen the former order of the day, No.12 of February

23, 1913, by which the territory of the Colony was divided into zones and subzones;

Seen the rules and the authority assigned by Articles 3 and 9 of royal decree No. 59 of January 23, 1913;

Seen Article 251 of the penal code for the army;

IT IS DECREED:

Art. I- The territory of the Colony is subdivided in the following manner:-

(a)-Zone of eastern Tripolitania, with headquarters at Misurata, which includes the limits existing to the east of Wadi Man (regional commissariat for Misurata and the Orfella, district of Sirte, region of the Oasis of Sirte, and the Pozzan);

(b)-Zone of southern Tripolitania, with headquarters at Garian, which includes the limits of the region of Garian and 'Isda, and the subzones of Jefren (regional commissariat of the eastern mountains);

(c)-Zone of the eastern mountains, and Tessellata, with headquarters at Tarhuna, which includes the limits of the Office of Civil Affairs of Homs and of the district of Tarhuna;

(d)-Zone of northern Tripolitania, with headquarters at Tripoli, which includes the limits of Tripoli, Tawira, Azizit and Zanzur, and the underzone of Zuara (districts of Agelat, Zuara and Zavia).

Art. 2- With every Commander of a zone is placed a civil or military officer to attend to the affairs of civil and political character under the direction of the Commandant of the zone.

The

The official attached to the headquarters of Commanders of zones can be the local political authority.

Art.3- The political-administrative authorities will continue their functions under the direction of the Commandants of zones.

Art.4- Commandants of zones previously authorized by the Governor, have power to recompense, case by case, with special rewards, those who have contributed to the capture or to the death of native rebel chiefs.

Art.5- Commandants of zones are authorized to sequester the property of rebel families or persons or of absent dissenters, who encourage the rebellion by any means. Likewise, land can be sequestered and rights of possession of cabile, mohalle, laime (communities, armed bands, blood relations) in a state of rebellion.

Sequestration may be changed to confiscation, and property so confiscated will, with gubernatorial decree, be definitely acquired for the crown-lands after judgment by a commission of five members, composed as follows: -Il Segretario Generale per gli Affari Civili e Politici (The Secretary General for Civil and Political Affairs), who will preside, Il Capo dell'Ufficio Politico Militare (The Chief of the Politico-Military Office), Il Presidente ed il Procuratore Generale del Re presso la Corte d'Appello della Libia (The President and the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Appeals of Libya), and a native councillor of the Government.

Art.6- Commandants of zones are authorized to pardon cabile, mohalle, laime, families, rebellious persons or those who

who have favored the rebels, upon their disarming and submission, subordinating the pardon to the payment of a special contribution in money or in land to be fixed by the Government of the Colony;

Art.7- Deportation outside the Colony,collectively or otherwise,is authorized for rebels or suspicious persons and members of their families; the place and duration of deportation will be established by gubernatorial decree on advice of the Commission mentioned in Article 6 (?);

Art.8- Commandants of zones are authorized to accept notables of the Colony as hostages;

Art.9- No indemnity can be recovered by natives whose property,moveable and immoveable,has been destroyed by order of the politico-administrative authorities or of Commandants of Zones;

Art.10- The Military Tribunals of War at Tripoli, Sirte, Misurata, and Iefren are preserved,with all their jurisdiction and authority.

Commandants of zones have authority to convoke at dependent presidios (except those where the Military Tribunal of War exists) special tribunals to try natives accused of spying,treason,plundering and acts hostile to the army of occupation. The above named special Tribunals will observe the rules of composition and forms of procedure established for extraordinary military tribunals in chapter I ,book II,part II of the penal code of the army.

INHABITANTS OF TRIPOLITANIA:

You know now the intentions of the Government and the
exceptional

exceptional precautions that I have taken and for whose execution the necessary forces will be sent from Italy.

It is for you to choose between the way of rebellion and punishment and that of peace and justice.

I have made you no promises or threats; I remind all that only by remaining quiet, by giving up arms where still possessed, by conciliating the rebels beguiled by traitor chiefs and deceivers can they be able quietly to attend their occupations and have security for their property and their families.

Tripoli, May 15, 1915.

The Governor.

(sd) Tassoni.

No. .

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, AUG 10 1915
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS.

SUBJECT: Native rebellion in Tripolitania, Libya.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I am glad to see reports made from time to time on the
condition of this district, and I have the honor to inform
you that the Government of the United States has become al-
ways more aggravated with the situation in the district
of Tripolitania over which Italy can be said to exercise
any effective control and authority is still indeed.

Not long ago the Government announced that for
political and economic reasons for maintaining garrisons
at outly. posts did not at present exist they would
be withdrawn, this to be accomplished in the Government's
own time and not because of necessity.

But, it had been believed that at certain centers there
was dire need of provisions and that the Government
of rebels lodged about the Government's garrisons.
The Government has now a garrison of 1000
men at the eastern mountain
hard pressed. Attempts at succor from both
sides have been made, but the Government has
ed for Tripoli only to be set upon in a deep ravine and,
few exceptions, killed or taken prisoner. By the man

in the street this was regarded as a disaster and its nearness to Tripoli, less than 40 miles distant, caused no little perturbation.

A few days later ^{the} relief of Misda is reported ^{as} having ^{been} ^{officially} to have ^{been} ^{reached} ^{the} ^{garrison} ^{eventually} ^{reached} ^{Garian} and arrived here yesterday looking as though the passage had not been without struggle. Of the fate of the troops stationed at Beni Oulid nothing definite is known, but it seems certain that no aid has reached them and their condition is believed to be no less desperate than other redoubts.

Taormina, Misurata City, Meselatta are among the points now said to be without Italian forces, and Cussabat is reported to have been abandoned after destruction of equipment. And further; authentic news of the last few days gives certainty to the withdrawal of the force from Garian, the most important hill station and the headquarters of the zone of southern Tripolitania, and this is to be followed by movements from Jefren and those farther west. Fenscir-el-Abeut, at the southern extremity of the railway and about 50 miles from Tripoli, is reported in the hands of the Arabs and it seems possible that Azizia, 20 miles nearer, will also be evacuated.

These hill stations have served as bulwarks against the rising tide of rebellion, and retirement therefrom ensures rather ease to its overflow into areas this side the barrier. The scene of active hostilities will doubtless, therefore, be transferred near to Tripoli. This thought
and

and the Tarhuna affair have caused uneasiness here, and as small bands of Arabs have, meanwhile, shown their ability to make incursions and commit depredations at nearby points the assurance of local immunity from disturbance and danger is fast disappearing.

The rebels are naturally elated and encouraged by what they consider successes and each post abandoned by the Italians, however orderly and secure the manner of its doing, adds to their opinion that Italy has failed to conquer in spite of the thousands of reinforcements brought into the fray. Their leaders are said to be confident that they can arrive close to Tripoli as they have done at Misurata, Zliten and other coast points.

Government forces from the hill stations are being centered here and the city and environs are well garrisoned. The high concrete wall, built by the Italians about two miles away along an arc whose ends rest upon the sea, should offer effective resistance to the enemy provided they cannot bring artillery into play, and the line of strong gun batteries is too near approach to this wall. Guns of war ships in the harbor would also add to the influences calculated to keep the insurgents at a distance.

What the attitude of the natives within the wall would be in the event of rebel successes near the port is not certain. As a precautionary measure they have for some time been forbidden to circulate between 10.30 P.M. and dawn, and meetings are prohibited at all times and in all places. The people of this tract were deprived of

all arms shortly after the Italian occupation and their possession since has been prohibited. Legally, therefore, the local man has no weapon; it is to be hoped that this is a fact, but arms seem to have acquired the faculty of appearing from nowhere at many places during recent months, and, so, one can never be sure.

From Arab sources it is learned that there is much nervousness among natives of the city. Because of the Government's failure to cope successfully with the interior situation, they believe the Bedouins will arrive and their fear is for what these triumphant and fanatic hordes may work upon the goods and the families of Mussulmans who live in peace with the invader, as well as upon Christians and Jews of all nationalities.

From the foregoing the Department will have gathered that there is ground for apprehension as to the ultimate safety of this city. The Consul of one of the Allied Powers, who has a number of people under his care, has suggested to his Ambassador at Rome that a war ship visit Tripoli during the month of Ramadan, which begins July 13. This is a most important Mussulman religious period, a month of daily fasting and nightly feasting wherein fanaticism added to the state of uncertainty and dislike of the Christian overlords might precipitate action not contemplated in ordinary times. In this connection I might remark that this representative of an allied nation is permitted by the Italian authorities to communicate with his Government and Embassy in cipher.

The issuance of a gubernatorial decree immediately

after

after the Tarhuna disaster forbids the circulating of news concerning the defence of the Colony or military operations other than is made public by the Government; heavy fines and penalties are imposed for infractions. It is understood that communications from Consuls to Ambassadors do not always escape the censorship established. Therefore, this Consulate has refrained from communicating with the Embassy at Rome upon this topic, although it has been felt His Excellency should be advised of the serious aspect of affairs.

Advantage is being taken of an opportunity to send this to Malta to be forwarded to Washington. An endeavor will be made to find means to transmit a copy to the Embassy at Rome.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Frederick Dorey
American Consul.

Since inscribing the above it has been learned that Zliten has also been abandoned, that the troops at Beni Oulid have surrendered to the Arabs, and that the force from Giosse Passato has arrived at Zaula on the coast to the west of Tripoli.

No. 12.

AUG 19 1915
AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, July 12, 1915.

SUBJECT: News in Tripolitania.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of
despatch to the American Embassy at Rome concerning a
recent gubernatorial decree against the spreading of news
in Tripolitania.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. H. Hall

Consul.

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, July 12, 1915.

SUBJECT: Decree against spreading news in Tripolitania.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,

ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I/-

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, translation of a decree promulgated by the local Governor and having for its object the suppression of all news concerning military operations in the Colony or its defense, other than is given out by the Government itself.

Because of this decree and the censorship I am sending no particulars of recent local happenings, but the Embassy will doubtless infer that conditions that have made this decree of silence necessary show no improvement over those that called forth the proclamation of a state of War in Tripolitania on May 14, 1915.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. Wood
American Consul.

Enclosure:

As indicated.

File No. 820.

DUPLICATE.

TRANSLATION.

DECREE.

AGAINST THE SPREADING OF NEWS.

Seen the provisions of the royal decree of January 9, 1913, No. 39, and article No. 261 of the Penal Code for the Army.

DECREE:

Article 1-Any one communicating news about the defense of the Colony or the military operations, different from that brought to the knowledge of the public by the Government, to others jointly or even separately, will be punished with imprisonment up to six months and with fines of from lire 100 to 1,000. If the crime be committed with the purpose of disturbing public tranquility or of otherwise damaging the public interest, the penalty will be imprisonment of from 2 months to 2 years and fines of from lire 500 to 3,000.

Article 2- Besides the cases covered by article 1, any person communicating to others jointly or even separately news about public order, national economy or other facts of public interest not conforming to the truth, and by which the public tranquility may be disturbed or the public interest otherwise damaged, will be punished with imprisonment up to six months, or with a fine of from lire 100 to 1,000. If the crime be committed for the purpose of injuring public tranquility or public interests the penalty will be imprisonment of from 2 months to 2 years

and

and a fine of from lire 500 to 3,000.

Article 3- Article I, paragraph (a) of the royal decree of February 6, 1913, No. 69 will be applied, whenever the spreading of news be such as to reach the limits of the crime of public intimidation, therein foreseen.

Article 4- For the crimes named in the present decree, the officials and those having functions of judicial police and of the public force must arrest whoever is found flagrantly committing them, according to article 303 of the Code of Penal Procedure. The Judge can issue orders of arrest.

Article 5- The present decree will be effective during the state of War, and will enter into force the same day that it is given to the public by means of proclamations.

Given at Tripoli June 25, 1915.

The Governor,

(sd) Tassoni.

Published in "La Nuova Italia", Tripoli, June 26, 1915.

No. 72.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, July 28, 1915.

SUBJECT: Cutting palm trees at Tripoli, Libya.

B

SEP 13 1915

FILE. C. E. S.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a
despatch to the American Embassy at Rome with reference
to the cutting of palm trees at this place.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Fredrick Harris
American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

File No. 820.

8650.00/26

22 101

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, July 28, 1915.

SUBJECT: Cutting palm trees in Tripoli, Libya.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, translation of a gubernatorial decree, published on the 23rd instant, authorizing local Military authorities to clear the country near the Tripoli wall of palm trees that could interfere with military operations, and, presumably, that could afford cover to the insurgent Arabs who are but a few miles from the wall, and small bodies of whom have exchanged shots with the outer line of defenses.

The new Governor is credited with being a cautious administrator. Naturally his plans are not discussed, but in addition to the removal of trees there are other evidences of wise preparation that bear out his reputation.

Within the wall all remains quiet. Business intercourse with even the nearest interior points is at a standstill.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. H. H. H.
American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.
File No. 820.

DUPLICATE.

TRANSLATION

of a Proclamation posted in Tripoli, Libya, July 23, 1915.

Seen royal decree No. 777 of May 14, 1915, by which the Territory of Tripolitania was declared in a state of war;

Held necessary because of military orders to cut down palm trees that are in proximity to the enclosure walls of the city of Tripoli;

Seen article 251 of the Penal Code for the Army:-

ORDER.

Article 1-The "Direzione del Genio Militare" is authorized to prepare for the cutting down of palm trees in proximity to the walls of the city of Tripoli that encumber the range of shooting;

Article 2-Owners of palms so cut down are entitled to indemnity on the basis of the just value of the palms themselves;

For this purpose those interested must present to the "Segretariato Generale per gli Affari Civili ed Politici" suitable demands for indemnity, specifying and particularizing the number of palms cut and furnishing documents showing their right of property and possession;

Article 3- Liquidation of the aforesaid indemnity will be provided following the favorable judgment of an appropriate Commission, presided over by the "Segretario Generale per gli Affari Civili ed Politici", and composed of the

Director

Director of the "Genio Militare", the Chief of the "Ufficio Fondiario", and the President of the "Commissione Straordinaria del Comune di Tripoli";

Article-4-The "Genio Militare" will give notice by suitable proclamation of the day on which the cutting will be completed;

Article 5-Requests for indemnity will be received up to twenty days following that indicated in the proclamation aforesaid, after this no indemnity can be liquidated in favor of proprietors and possessors of the palms cut down;

Article-6-The present ordinance will be published by posting on the walls in the City of Tripoli.

The Governor,

Ameglio.

No. 73.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 4, 1915.

SUBJECT: Improved conditions at Tripoli, Libya.

B

SEP 13 1915

FILE, C. E. S.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/-

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a despatch to the American Embassy at Rome with reference to improved conditions at this place following the arrival of Governor Ameglio.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

American Consul.

Enclosure:

As indicated.

File No. 820.

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 4, 1915.

SUBJECT: Improved conditions at Tripoli, Libya.

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
ROME, ITALY.

SIR:

I have the honor to inform the Embassy that Governor Ameglio's presence here and his active and excellent preventive, protective and defensive measures have gone a long way towards restoring local calm and confidence. The opinion grows daily that the bodies of troops now quartered at numerous points throughout the city not only discourage risings within the walls but also make possible the prompt suppression of any outward attempt of such nature. Moreover, it is coming to be more and more believed that the rebels could not successfully assail the defenses devised by the new Governor, but would only suffer severe loss for their enterprise.

Governor Ameglio's influence, it is said, has also improved the morale of the troops which, naturally, was affected by recent occurrences.

The Government is holding no place in Tripolitania outside of Tripoli except Homs, and forces from the other presidios are concentrated here.

A copy of this report has been sent to the Department

ment of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. D. D. D.
American Consul.

No. 93.

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, July 13, 1916.

SUBJECT: Effect of action of the Shereef of Mecca
on local political conditions.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of
a despatch to the American Embassy, at Rome, with re-
lation to the effect of the recently reported upris-
ing in Arabia under the Shereef of Mecca against the
Imperial Ottoman Authorities upon the discont^{ent}ed Arabs
of this district.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. H. H.

American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

800.

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,

Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, July 12, 1916.

SUBJECT: Effect of action of the Shereef of Mecca
on local political conditions.

Honorable Peter A. Jay,
American Charge d'Affaires,
Rome, Italy.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of July 1, 1916, wherein you ask for the views of this Consulate as to the effect, if any, the recently reported uprising in Arabia under the Shereef of Mecca against the Imperial Ottoman Authorities is having on the hostile or discontented Arabs of this district.

The Embassy will recall that some months ago the Consulate reported the cessation of all intercourse with the surrounding country. That condition is unchanged. Consequently it is impossible to more than surmise how such news would be accepted by the hostile natives of the interior.

The history of the present local disturbances indicates that the happenings in Arabia will make little, if any, difference to the turbulent masses of this region. It must be borne in mind that the Libyan

yan insurrection was not primarily a holy war, but a political war waged, not against the infidel but against alien temporal rule, now personified in the Government of Rome. That the Mussulman of these parts had no love for the temporal rule of Constantinople is shown in the several serious revolutions and frequent uprisings during its overlordship; the Sultan was revered as head of his religion, and because of the force that kept him there. The native would probably adhere as faithfully to a new secular head who had the force to impose himself on that religion. The Sultan is neither Arab nor of the race of the Prophet. The Sher-ef of Mecca has both these attributes and may draw many to his ecclesiastical standard by these facts alone. His possession of Mecca and the other Holy Places of Islam will increase his influence and prestige.

The prime mover of disaffection against the Italians has been Sidi Ahmed, the Grand Senusso. He and his predecessors maintained as constant opposition to Turkey. His influence as head of the numerous Senussi sect extends from the Suez Canal to the Atlantic Ocean, and is great. His secular ambition seems satisfied, and his ecclesiastical pinnacle secure. The Grand Senusso's dream is a political one, of a free or autonomous State wherein members of his sect could gather under his rule and dwell free from alien domination. The Sultan, head of Islam, while not entirely according to his attitude, was never able to successfully

cope

cope against it and tacitly permitted him to live quasi autonomously and undisturbed in the Oasis of Giarabub.

Sidi Ahmea has as persistently held out against all Italian overtures as they have conceded nothing to his aims. A review of the reports from this Consulate will recall how even when it was claimed that Tripolitania had been pacified, Cirenaica, under his incitement, still determinedly resisted Italian penetration, and accounts of frequent battles appeared in the local press down to the middle of 1914.

He seems not to have been influenced by the proclamation of the "Jehad", or Holy War, from Constantinople, for the British protectorate immediately to the east of his headquarters, went undisturbed for almost a year, while conditions grew steadily worse here notwithstanding the fact that on December 8, 1914, the representative of the Sultan at Tripoli instructed the principal ulama that "the Holy War does not in any way touch Italy, the friend of Turkey".

British official despatches covering military operations in Egypt (see London Weekly Times of June 30, 1916) say, among other things, that for some time after the outbreak of hostilities between Great Britain and Turkey in 1914, the attitude of the Grand Senusso towards Egypt remained friendly; that, as early as May, 1915, signs were apparent that the steadily increasing pressure brought to bear upon him by the Turkish party

in Tripoli, under the leadership of Furi Bey, a half brother to Fiver Pasha, was beginning to take effect; that, it was not until the advent of Gaafer, a Germanized Turk who arrived in Tripoli in April, 1915, with a considerable supply of arms and money that his attitude underwent a change; that, there was no serious overt act until August, 1915, when two British submarines, sheltering from weather under the Cyrenaican coast, were fired on; and that, other and repeated acts led up to the stiff action by British troops near Sollum.

It is believed that if the truth were known it would be found that German emissaries, arriving in his presence by submarine and enlarging on the might of Germany and its allies and on their ultimate triumph, bought Fidi Ahmed's activities against Egypt with assurances for that independent state for which he had so long hoped and striven.

The severe lesson received at the hands of British troops has probably shaken his faith in the German argument, and will make him wary about causing additional trouble in that quarter. But he has had no such lesson in Cirenaica or Tripolitania, and realizing now that his independent state will depend upon his own effort in the original direction, it does not seem reasonable that he will give up without a further struggle. With the Egyptian Government arrayed against him as an enemy the question of supplies will be more difficult, and this may eventually soften his attitude.

Equally in Tripolitania conditions seem to ar-

gue against betterment because of the events about which the Embassy has asked. Here, too, the uprising, fostered by the Grand Senusso, has also been sustained by political rather than religious motives, and is anti-Italian. In the region immediately around Tripoli and in the hills, Sheik Soof is the dominating spirit. He is an irreconcilable and inherits the characteristic. He is the grandson of that famous Sheik Omar who, in the middle of the nineteenth century, waged war long and successfully against the temporal sway of his spiritual chief, the Sultan of Turkey. Soof of all the leaders in this Province is the most obstinate, if report is to be credited, and has so far waved aside every advance by the local authorities, even that looking toward the exchange of Arab prisoners (brought back from Italy several weeks ago, and now at Tripoli for the purpose) and Italians who fell into his hands during the stirring events of the summer of 1915.

He has the prestige of his warrior ancestor, of whom it was written in 1866 that "he could always bring into the field 12,000 men from the tribes that acknowledged him as hereditary, men who will only submit when fairly conquered by main force". If Soof has the influence of Omar (which some doubt), and he and his followers possess the spirit of their forbears, they should long prove troublesome. Omar's career finally ended in April, 1868, when he was killed in an engagement south of Chat.

Sheik Boof, too, has German and Turkish lieutenants who fortify him in his resistance with assurances that Germany will eventually come to his relief. It is claimed locally that his supplies are running short, and that ultimately this will cause his capitulation. Be that as it may there are Arab forces not far away. A battle took place within gun sound of Tripoli within the last two weeks, when the insurgents were equipped with artillery as well as with rifles.

Of other leaders referred to in former despatches, Saif el Nasser, who held such strong, personal resentment against the Italian authorities, was reported killed some time ago, but he has sons to succeed. Mohammed el Twat, one hears nothing definite from, but Arabs say he still holds sway in the Fezzan. Bin Stayway, who engineered the enlisting of the irregular bands that caused the catastrophe of Casr bu Hadi, is still in authority in the Syrte, and Bin Muscir, an old and influential leader is said to be with him.

Having regard for the foregoing it seems improbable that the birth of an independent State in Arabia and the pretensions of the Shereef of Mecca as head of Islam will ameliorate political conditions in this corner of the Mussulman world. Material influences-diplomatic effort, military force, or lack of munitions and food-will eventually solve local difficulties whether the faithful continue spiritual allegiance to the Sultan at Constantinople, or whether they adhere to the Shereef of Mecca.

The

The Italian authorities seem to have made little effort to give publicity to the rebellion in the Hejaz. As a matter of fact it has no facilities for spreading propaganda in this Province outside of Tripoli, Homs, and Zuara. In Cirenaica it might be disseminated over a larger area.

I/- Here at Tripoli the event was chronicled in "La Nuova Italia", the daily paper, with a translation into Arabic, and other telegrams concerning it have been published from time to time. On July 10,, a special article was printed on the editorial page of "La Nuova Italia", the only newspaper in the Colony and carefully censored. A translation of the more pertinent portions is enclosed, herewith. From this it will be seen that the writer does not so much seek to spread the news of the disaffection of the Sherceef of Mecca, as to put forward a plea for the union of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Russia in a common policy in Mussulman politics, and to assert Italy's necessity for moving to secure a settlement of its colonial problem out of the issue of the European war. No manifestos concerning Arabia have been displayed, and it is understood that the Grand Sherceef of Mecca has not been mentioned publicly in local mosques.

A copy of this despatch has been forwarded to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. H. Brown
American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

800.

TRANSLATION.

Excerpt from an unsigned article appearing in "La Nuova Italia", Tripoli, Libya, July 10, 1916, and entitled "THE BEGINNING OF THE END".

NOTE: the article refers to the uprising of the Shercof of Mecca, and his declaration of war against the Ottoman Authority. The closing paragraphs are as follows:

The event that has been completed by the work of the Grand Shercof of Mecca assumes then political weight and value of exceptional importance for the powers of the "Quadruplice Intesa", all of which have Mussulman interests to defend. We do not hesitate to affirm that, if the powers of the "Quadruplice", especially Great Britain, France, and Italy, in close common accord, with clear foresight for the necessity of the hour that approaches, will know how to render fruitless this event and give it the importance and weight it merits, not only will the Mussulman card in the great war, so imprudently played by Germany be played to its loss, but will finally make room for the secular aspirations of believers in the greater extension and better form for guarding the interests of the "Intesa", and will see the eternal menace of Islam to the tranquility and peace of Europe vanish for ever.

In other terms we maintain the urgent, absolute, and unshakeable necessity for the powers of the "Intesa", and especially France, Great Britain, and Italy that have such important Mussulman interests in this Afri-

can continent, uniting on a program of Mussulman politics, soon, because events press hotly and will be more urgent in the future.

It is even deplorable, we are free to affirm it, that in the union of spirit, of arms, of effort for the common victory, France, England, and Italy have not, up to the present, felt the necessity for extending this communion of effort and labor to the field of Mussulman politics.

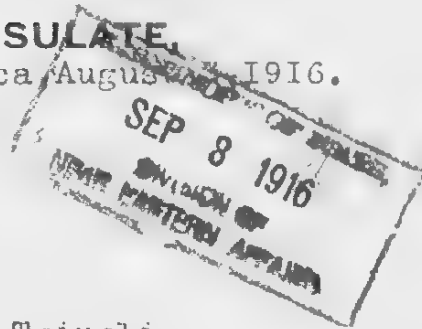
This necessity, that for Italy, who has such grave interests to define and guard on the African continent, translates itself into a duty and an honor not inferior to that of the war which it sustains for the conquest of its natural confines, involving the solution of our colonial problem, in great part, of our future economical prosperity, has been until now too much neglected by our responsible powers, and it is time that it be examined, discussed and resolved before the war is finished.

Therefore, we hold, and it is sufficient only to indicate without proof so intuitive are the reasons, that: Our colonial problem must be settled to our advantage only with the war and in the war that we are now fighting, or it will be decided to our loss.

No. 97.



AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 1916.



SUBJECT: Political events at Tripoli.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a report to the Embassy at Rome touching recent political events at this place.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. R. H. H. H.

American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

800.

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 3, 1916.

SUBJECT: political events at Tripoli.

Honorable Peter A. Jay,
American Charge d'Affaires,
Rome, Italy.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that after long negotiation the Italian authorities have effected an exchange of prisoners with the turbulent Arabs of the interior.

This, to use the language of "La Nuova Italia", is the happy outcome of a colossal work of patience and caution unfolded in Tripolitania by Governor Ameglio from the day on which his strong shoulders took up the grave heritage left to him by his predecessors".

Friendly Arab chiefs, who had come to Tripoli with the closing of the country, undertook the delicate mission of negotiation, and the first to go out, about six months ago, was Ali bin Tentush, the venerable Caimai-can of Azizia. He and others, conspicuous among whom a certain Ahmed el Osta, made sundry visits to Tarhuna where a considerable number of Italians were held prisoners. It was not until June that the rebel chiefs of that region showed themselves willing to conclude an
exchange

exchange. The Arab prisoners in Italy were brought to Tripoli in preparation of such event, but treaty was interrupted at that time. Patience, offers, and counter-offers finally prevailed, and on July 25th the exchange was consummated a short distance outside of Tripoli. All the Arab prisoners, including Ali Shel Abi, formerly Calmaican of the Melaha, were turned back, and in exchange 23 Italian officers and 700 soldiers and civilians passed into the hands of the representatives of Governor Ameglio, waiting to receive them.

On the whole the Italians seem to have been treated humanely by their desert captors. It is understood they were not compelled to work, and were supplied such food as the district produce. Monotonous enough to Europeans and probably not too abundant, if reports of shortage among the Arabs are true. A doctor who inspected them on arrival said there were cases needing immediate hospital treatment, and others were anemic through want of proper nourishment, that clothing was in rags, and they were vermin infected, but all in all their condition might be rated good. Out of a total of 742 at Tarchuna, 19 had died. Money has been a telling argument in the negotiations, and a good round sum has evidently passed into the hands of the Arab chiefs at Tarchuna. The sum is variously placed; some say it lire 1,000 a man, but by a more dependable source it is placed at It. lire 500,000 for the entire.

lot.

lot. As far as can be learned Sheik Soof, the grandson of Omar, has had nothing to do with these transactions and disapproves them.

There are other Italian prisoners more directly under his control in the Orfella region, and at Misurata in the hands of Bin Stayway. Their numbers are uncertain but it is probable they will not fall much below those in the recent exchange. There is some doubt that the Italians have any more Arabs to offer in return. However, it is felt that Governor Ameglio will not desist in his efforts to release the rest of his unfortunate countrymen. Already, if report may be credited, he has selected native emissaries to undertake negotiations to secure the release of both lots.

The return of the prisoners from Tachuna has caused great rejoicing here, and Governor Ameglio's prestige, always high locally, has been increased. His work here is worthy of all praise. Coming as he did when the spirit and the courage of the community was at lowest ebb, Governor Ameglio, by calm, wise, patient, upright, and diplomatic measures first guaranteed the safety of the city and then set about restoring the confidence of his countrymen. This he has done in spite of the disheartening times. The people have great faith in him, and there is a general feeling that when Italy is ready to turn its attention to the re-occupation of the evacuated districts, Governor Ameglio is the man who can successfully pacify the natives and restore his

his country's lost prestige if any man can.

On July 30th, the Governor was made the object of a popular demonstration. The enthusiasm of the crowds and the sentiment expressed by their spokesmen must have been gratifying as well as encouraging to this earnest, hard working official.

Speaking on August 2, upon the occasion of his Bairan visit to Hassuna Faramanli and other Arab notables, the Governor remarked "that the exchange of Italian prisoners from Tachuna was the first significant success of the politics initiated and conducted with the aid of those native elements that wished and knew how to aid the Government efficiently. With patience these successes will multiply because rebellion is an abnormal phenomenon of social life, and sooner or later those who cause it must fall miserably, or have their eyes opened. This will happen to those of the interior: hunger, persuasion will put them on the straight road and that at a time not very distant".

Touching on proposed governmental measures for the Colony, His Excellency related how the Central Government has appropriated It.lire 500,000 for agriculture in Libya, and It.lire 20,000 to initiate the systematizing of the Faramanli territory, further, in order to show the magnanimity of the Government he announced that shortly there would arrive 200,000 quintales of barley to satisfy the hunger of those of the interior that will very soon come to Tripoli and acknowledge

errors

errors committed.

The important announcement was also made that before long there would be definitely instituted a Council of Government and a mixed Commission formed of natives and Italians to study, discuss, and settle the most important and vital questions of the Colony. Finally he exhorted all to put themselves to the work of improvement and to have faith in the future.

The Governor pointed out in a second speech to the same Assembly how Italy had 3,000,000 soldiers massed against the enemy on her borders, and that it was useless for the Arabs of the interior to illude themselves with the possibility of help from Germany and Turkey.

A copy of this report has been forwarded to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. Adams, Jr.
American Consul.

200.

No. 100.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,

Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 15, 1916.

8655.00
30

SUBJECT: Political events at Tripoli, Libya.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I/- I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of the Consulate's final report to the Embassy at Rome concerning local political conditions.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Frederick S. Lane
American Consul.

Enclosure:
As indicated.

800.

DUPLICATE.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,
Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, August 15, 1916.

SUBJECT: Political events at Tripoli, Libya.

The Honorable T. Nelson Page,
American Ambassador,
Rome, Italy.

Sir:

I have the honor to supplement my report of August 3rd, with reference to political events at Tripoli.

It now seems possible that negotiations for the release of Italian prisoners remaining in the interior may be brought to a favorable conclusion with less difficulty than in the case of those recently exchanged.

Sheik Soof appears to have lost considerable prestige in the last few weeks. It is reported that many Chiefs have fallen away from him. His helplessness to prevent the Italian re-occupation of Zuara, and the battle near Tripoli, referred to in my despatch of July 12th, also resulted in his discomfiture. These occurrences have doubtless shaken faith in his boastings and so his followers desert. It is asserted he had no say in the final exchange of the Tarnana prisoners and will have as little with regard to those at Misurata and in the Orfelia. There seems to be only one tribe interested in them at the latter place, so negotiations should

be

be less complicated than at Tarhuna where several had to be mollified. The Orfella presents the disadvantage, however, of being further inland and more difficult of access than Tarhuna. It is said that following the news of the return of the prisoners by the Tarhuna Chiefs, emissaries have come in from the Misurata region on a similar mission.

It is also reported that several Sheiks, formerly in Italian pay and who took refuge in Tripoli during the uprisings last year, have resigned their Italian posts, and will be permitted by the authorities to go and reside among their own people. This ostensibly to show their preference for things Arab, but the opinion has been expressed that there is probably a "string" to the resignations, and that these men return to their countries to quietly spread the propaganda of benefits to be received from friendship for and co-operation with the Italians. It may have an excellent effect and prove a valuable factor in a campaign of peaceful pacification, if Italian authorities are still of the opinion that such a campaign has sufficient value to warrant another trial.

The news that Italy and Great Britain have reached an agreement as to dealings with the Senussi has been received with interest here. This should have a stronger influence on the actions of their Chief than the uprising of the Shereef of Mecca ever could have, for if Great Britain plays Italy's game on the Ciren-aican-Egyptian border, his position will become always

more

more and more difficult than it has been in the past.

This is my final report on local conditions. I leave Tripoli at a most interesting time politically. The working out of the many local problems will be fraught with difficulty, and administration of the highest order will be necessary for their successful solution. The local Government is in good hands at present. General Ameglio, the Governor, as recited in my despatch of August 3rd, has developed many sterling qualities, and the future lies largely in his actions. Local Italian faith in him increases daily, and Arabs who come in contact with him respect him highly. The mistakes admittedly made by his predecessors undoubtedly lowered Italian prestige in native eyes to near vanishing point. The way back will not be without difficulties. The Governor, or even the Government, cannot do it all. The Italian people in the Colony, individually, must be made to treat the native with that justice, fairness, honesty and consideration that have been so much talked of. One of the most hopeful symptoms in General Ameglio's administration is that he seeks in every way to discourage unfair treatment of Arabs by his co-nationals. If this is persisted in a better feeling, generally, should grow up between Italian and Arab, that would assist in any movement of friendly pacification.

The most interesting point of all will be to see if Italy can make headway in this country without further recourse to the force and warfare that was found

necessary

necessary to curb the predatory instincts of those who have inhabited the land almost uncurbed in the past.

A copy of this report has been sent to the Department of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. Rodriguez Dorrell
American Consul. *h*

800.

No. - - -

AMERICAN CONSULATE-GENERAL,

SUBJECT: Acknowled

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

MAR 9 1917

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE
EASTERN AREA

RECEIVED
MAR 10 1917
10/31

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



The American Consul General
Yona Tripodi
P.O. Box 1500
Lima

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

Genoa, Italy, August 17, 1927.

SUBJECT: Military operations in Cirenaica.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to attach hereto a translation of a news item which appeared in IL LAVORO of Genoa in its issue of August 14, 1927, concerning the success of certain Italian military operations against recalcitrant native tribes in Cirenaica, North Africa, that Colony being comprised within the consular district of this office.

As the Department knows, news of all kinds from the Italian colonies in Africa is very strictly censored, so that it is difficult to obtain facts on such developments from the Italian Press. But the newspapers in the French colony of Tunisia and the British colony of Malta frequently discuss such matters very frankly. In an endeavor to furnish the Department with information from every available source, I have asked my consular colleagues in those two colonies to send me clippings of any

newspaper

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newspaper editorials which discuss political or military events in either Tripolitania or Cirenaica, and they have promised to do so.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,



H P Starrett
American Consul General.

Enclosure: ✓

Translation from IL LAVORO
Aug. 14, 1927.

800
HPS.MM

(Transmitted to Department in quadruplicate)
(Copy to Embassy, Rome)
(Copy to Consulate General, Naples).

Translation from IL LAVORO, August 14, 1927.

Continuing the offensive against the rebel Duars in central Gebel, yesterday a detachment of our troops coming from Maraua met a caravan of rebels near Uadi Sammalus and destroyed it. The enemy left their dead, numbering six, on the field of action, and about fifty camels and some rifles fell into our hands.

The same day a larger detachment of our troops, coming from Tecniza, encountered the Dor deglib Abid, who quickly retreated in a south-western direction. At dawn yesterday our Air-Forces sighted a caravan of the entire Dor (name illegible) tribe, flying from the region of El Keira towards Nadi Gabar. A detachment of armoured cars conveniently posted at Bir-Bu-Quidi was advised, and guided by the Air-Force, they started in pursuit and overtook the caravan at 6-30 in the morning.

This detachment's pursuit and its continued firing lasted until one o'clock, and a distance of about 40 kilometers was covered, when the rebel caravan was completely destroyed, and more than two hundred Arabs were lying dead on the ground. Fifty rifles were captured, about seven hundred camels were killed or captured, as well as a considerable quantity of goods which included several thousand cartridges for rifles.

A considerable number of "black shirts" from the armoured cars took part in this brilliant action which

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was lead with the greatest skill and with the valuable and systematic support of the Air-Force, the "black shirts" working splendidly under the orders of our brave regular officers, thus cementing the union of "grey greens" and "black shirts" in the service of our Country.

In the actions which took place on the 10th and 11th instants our losses were insignificant. We hear that the news of their complete defeat in the Indian action has made a great impression on all the tribes and groups of rebels. According to our latest information the enemey's losses amount to more than three hundred lives.

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September 29, 1927

Henry P. Starrett, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Genoa, Italy.

Sir:

The Department has received your despatch in triplicate No. 136, dated August 17, 1927, on the subject of "Military Operations in Cirenaica", and in this connection invites your attention to paragraph (A) of the memorandum accompanying General Instruction, Consular, No. 1040, dated April 1, 1927, entitled "Political Reporting by Consular Officers", and to the Department's mimeographed circular instruction dated May 18, 1927, entitled "Transmission of Political Reports by Certain Consular Officers", from which you will note that all political despatches and reports from Consular offices in Italy should be addressed to the Embassy at Rome and that only one copy thereof should be forwarded to the Department.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Wilbur D. ...

Acting Secretary of State.

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Central File: Decimal File 865C.00, Internal Affairs Of States, Libya, Political Affairs., December 3, 1912 - December 18, 1929. December 3, 1912 - December 18, 1929. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109729466%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.